

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: ZEA, NATALIA [NataliaZea@woai.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 9:36 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: RE: Main Plaza

Cool, thanks.

Natalia

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Ramos (Pub works) [mailto:MRamos@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 6:57 AM
To: ZEA, NATALIA
Subject: Main Plaza

Thank you so much for the great coverage last night!

I'm working on that traffic study request for you. As soon as I can get a hold of it, I'll try to email it.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: WJSibley@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 1:14 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Comments

Plan A and B are both fine. Get rid of Plan C (we DON'T need Market St. running through the plaza.)

Bill Sibley

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Volesky, Dawn [DawnVolesky@clearchannel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 8:19 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Feedback

Options 1 & 2. Close both Main & Soledad and provide access to the river on the east side of the Plaza.

Dawn Volesky

210-253-5017-o

210-391-5352-c

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Vaughn Bomberger [vbomberger@gbarch.net]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 10:34 AM
To: Main Plaza

Options 2&3

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: VALLE, ALBERT F (SBCSI) [av1294@att.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 8:37 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

I say leave it alone. A plaza is a plaza. It has performed well for many decades and any change will upset traffic and hurt downtown businesses.
Let's keep it clean and well lit.

Albert F. Valle, AIA
Area Manager, Design and Construction
CRE--San Antonio
210-351-8285 (v) 210-351-8329 (f)

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Valdez, Anita D. [ADValdez@CPSEnergy.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 1:10 PM
To: Main Plaza

Great idea a mini Central Park in San Antonio.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: V Frank Perry [vfperry@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 9:02 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: My comments re Main Plaza

Main Plaza should be left alone with exception of "sprucing" it up.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tony Price [ajprice@van-norden.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:49 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Parking

It would be nice to have more short-term affordable parking in the vicinity of the square, such as a city-owned multi-story garage.

Thanks,

AJ Price

Anthony J. Price
(210) 736-6550
ajprice@van-norden.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tom DeBrooke [tdebrooke@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 8:46 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Options Selection.

I would support Option A. Thank you.

Tom

Tom DeBrooke
Chairman & CEO
CredibilitySharing, LLC
San Antonio, Texas
Tom@CredibilitySharing.com
(210) 225-5866
(210) 225-5666 Fax

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tim Baisdon [baisdon@3DI.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2006 2:23 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Roger Flores; bebrewer@downtownsa.org; kmadden@pps.org; Hemingson, Todd
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Third Public Meeting Comments

Attachments: comment form.pdf



comment form.pdf
(71 KB)

Revised comment form - please discard previous. Revised to change street name references from "Durango" to "Dolorosa".

Additional comments:

- The City should consider a long-term lease option to allow/encourage construction of a building over the north side of the Portal Park leaving the plaza/stair in place, and either building above the existing features or down to the ground. If the building is built down to the ground, the lower part of the handicap ramp/walk would have to be accounted for elsewhere or with a lift. This building will help form the street-wall of the plaza and fortify it's corner as one side of the Commerce entry into the plaza.
- Plaza de Armas - The parking on the north side of City hall should be removed, possibly replaced by on-street parking on Commerce. The parking on the south side should also be removed, and the parking on the West side should be head-in parking off a re-opened street running along the west side in front of the Governor's Palace and all the way through the block. These changes will redefine the plaza as plaza and not City Hall parking lot, and recognize the importance of the Governor's Palace and Plaza de Armas. Flores Street could also be narrowed somewhat to at least remove the excess cueing width at the parallel parking, and possibly narrowed to two lanes plus parallel parking on one side only. Special paving on Flores would help tie the Paseo to the Plaza de Armas. Regardless of whether the Plaza de Armas is included in this phase of plaza renovation, it should be master-planned for the future, and interpretive signage should point visitor's from the Paseo/Courtyard at San Fernando toward the Plaza de Armas and the Governor's Palace with some explanation of their significance.

From: Tim Baisdon
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 2:35 PM
To: 'mramos@sanantonio.gov'
Cc: Roger Flores, Jr; bebrewer@downtownsa.org; 'kmadden@pps.org'; 'Hemingson, Todd'
Subject: Main Plaza Third Public Meeting Comments

Attached, please find my Comment Form from the Main Plaza Third Public Meeting.

Timothy J. Baisdon, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tim Baisdon [baisdon@3DI.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 2:35 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Roger Flores; bebrewer@downtownsa.org; kmadden@pps.org; Hemingson, Todd
Subject: Main Plaza Third Public Meeting Comments

Attachments: comment form.pdf



comment form.pdf
(47 KB)

Attached, please find my Comment Form from the Main Plaza Third Public Meeting.

Timothy J. Baisdon, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tim Baisdon [baisdon@3DI.com]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 12:10 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Roger Flores; mgreenberg@express-news.net
Subject: Main Plaza Public Meeting

I am hoping that the three options that will be presented on Wednesday for Main Plaza address the input and concerns that the public has provided up to this point. The invitation to the meeting discusses the three options that will be presented on Wednesday and then points to the sanantonio.gov website for more info; however, the only information there pertains to the one original concept. The way the concept is presented on the website, it does not sound like a plan that it is in progress, but rather one that is finished and will be implemented. As of this morning on sanantonio.gov, the "COSA Week in Preview" indicates last week's schedule, and the "Design Process and Schedule" under Main Plaza information indicates that the third meeting will be in April. It does not post the date for Wednesday's meeting. I got notice for this meeting on Friday because it appears that the Downtown Alliance prepared an invitation and it was distributed through AIA. I did not receive notice from the City, though I have signed in and provided my information and request for notification by e-mail/fax as well.

So far, the public meetings have been formatted in such a way that discussion from the public is not heard by all attendees. Open discussion is confined to small group settings where the public does not hear the conversation/debate from the public at-large, and where individual input is recorded by group or subject moderators.

Where are the public comments being gathered and tabulated, and how can the public get access to the public input gathered to date? Will tabulations and summaries of public input be available on Wednesday or any other time without filing a formal request for public information? If the information coming out of the public meetings is not **readily** available to the public and the public cannot hear live debate at the meetings, can it be said that the purpose for a public meeting has been served? Will the public have to wait until the plan is presented to Council for final approval before there is an opportunity for publicly aired comment at that Council meeting?

Timothy J. Baisdon, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tim Baisdon [baisdon@3DI.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 7:55 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza "Project and Draft Concept Plan Comment Sheet"

Attachments: comment sheet.tif; FW: Main Plazas; 012406 DTA Main Plaza Survey (tim).doc; RE: Main Plaza; Main Plaza



comment sheet.tif
(40 KB)



FW: Main Plazas



012406 DTA Main
Plaza Survey (...)



RE: Main Plaza



Main Plaza

Ms. Monica Ramos

Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
P.O.Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Ms. Ramos: I am attaching the "Project and Draft Concept Plan Comment Sheet" from the "First Public Meeting" on February 28, 2006. My comment sheet references the other attachments to this e-mail which will provide my input on the Main Plaza Concept Plan as presented:

- My response to the Downtown Alliance Main Plaza Survey
- "Main Plazas" e-mail outlining what I think a main plaza should be and historically has been under the "Law of the Indies" model. The mayor's letter tonight indicated "restoration" of the plaza, yet I see no elements of the current design that restore it to any period in the past, nor consistent with the intent for its use at any point in history.
- Response to Rolando Briseno regarding his excellent comment that the east edge needs a street wall.
- Response to Bill Hurley and Bonnie Conner regarding the Main Plaza concept with link to site where the "Law of the Indies" can be read.

I will appreciate your attaching these documents to my comment sheet as I have put considerable effort into them and they express the views that I still maintain after tonight's meeting and presentation of the concept plan.

Timothy J. Baisdon, AIA

3D/I

219 East Houston Street, Suite 350
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1856
Tel 210/227-2500 Fax 210/227-9704

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Tim Baisdon [baisdon@3DI.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 7:24 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: I Want to Stay Informed/Involved

Attachments: stay involved.tif



stay involved.tif
(42 KB)

Please see attached form from the First Public Meeting regarding Main Plaza and keep me informed/involved in the process.

Timothy J. Baisdon, AIA
3D/I
219 East Houston Street, Suite 350
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1856
Tel 210/227-2500 Fax 210/227-9704

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Terry & Wayne Carter [bwctc@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 3:11 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: continued discussion: Main Plaza

Council members, Committee members:

Please continue to discuss plans for this very important historic treasure. I do not think we have arrived at the best development and protection.

Thank you,
Terry Carter
125 S. Winston Ln.
SA Tx 78213
375-1527

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: SUETMCD@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 6:31 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

Leave the streets and the trees like they are now! Spruce up the Plaza with more seating, landscaping and a redesigned fountain. Don't close any streets.
Sue McDonald

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Sonny [scol@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 3:53 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: main plaza

as a compromise, what about closing from 6:00 p.m. fridays until 6:00 a.m. monday morning?

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Sinkfield Rick Civ AFCEE/TDB [Rick.Sinkfield@brooks.af.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:26 AM
To: Main Plaza
Cc: Lierly Randall L Civ AFCEE/ICS; 'torrey@aiaa.org'
Subject: FW: Main Plaza Comments

Attachments: Main Plaza Proposals - Comments (Lierly).doc



Main Plaza
Proposals - Comment

Mr. Brewer; attached are some comments from Mr. Lierly, an interested citizen architect. He says he prefers scheme A and I agree. Also, the traffic flow appears better in that it does not force traffic to inconveniently loop around the Courthouse.

Rick Sinkfield, AIA

Senior Architect

Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

Technical Directorate, Built Infrastructure Division

AFCEE/TDB

3300 Sidney Brooks

Brooks City-Base TX 78235-5112

210 536-3485 (fax -2239)

From: Lierly Randall L Civ AFCEE/ICS
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 8:25 AM
To: Sinkfield Rick Civ AFCEE/TDB
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Comments

Rick,

I've attached a few thoughts you can forward. Thanks for the opportunity.

- Randy

//SIGNED//

RANDALL L. LIERLY, R.A., GS-14, DAF
Chief, Space Support Division
HQ AFCEE/ICS
210.536.4208
(DSN) 240 (fax) 4254

From: Sinkfield Rick Civ AFCEE/TDB

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 1:30 PM

To: Rodriguez Adriana M Civ AFCEE/TDB; Boyce Bourland (boyce.bourland@deca.mil); Brent Mossberger (brent.mossbarger@gsa.gov); Garcia Carlos M Civ 37 CES/CECC-1; Duncan Dave M Civ AFCEE/TDB; Dose David A Civ AFSVA/SVXFB; Williams David A Civ AFSVA/SVXFB; Fitzpatrick Douglas C Civ AFCEE/ICM; Bergman Gary R Civ AFCEE/IW; Mesick Gene F Civ AFCEE/TDB; Garcia George NMI Civ AFCEE/IWE; Tepperman Judith H Civ AFCEE/HDP; Graf Larry W Civ AFSVA/SVXFB; Lara Laura Civ AFSVA/SVXFB; Lierly Randall L Civ AFCEE/ICS; Enrico Rick Civ AETC/A7CCT; Sinkfield Rick Civ AFCEE/TDB; Hayden Ronnell R Civ AFSVA/SVXFB; Hunter Scott J Civ AFCEE/IWE; Frahm Stephen J Civ AFCEE/HDM; Kellogg Don A Civ AFCEE/ICC; Gross Stan Civ AFCEE/TDB; Shierk Theodore T Civ AFCEE/TDB

Subject: FW: Main Plaza Comments

Importance: High

Seeking your comments for Main Plaza designs.

//SIGNED//

RICK SINKFIELD, AIA

Senior Architect, Built Infrastructure Division

HQ AFCEE/TDB

210 536-3485 (fax -2239); DSN 240-3485; 210 867-2091 Mobile

email: rick.sinkfield@brooks.af.mil

From: AIA Front Desk [mailto:laura@aiaa.org]

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 10:23 AM

To: laura@aiaa.org

Subject: Main Plaza Comments

Importance: High

Your Input On the Main Plaza Proposals is Requested

Please review the three Main Plaza proposals presented last Wednesday at the third Public Meeting. ***The City of San Antonio is seeking feedback on these proposals and would like comments back by this Friday, May 19th so that the Design Consultant Team can synthesize the public comments and arrive at a final scheme to be presented at the next Public Meeting on May 30th.*** Comments can be specific about each of the three options, or can focus on elements from each that could or should be incorporated in the final plan. The City should be adding a written description to the website today that provides more detail about each of the three options.

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/mainplaza/>

If you have questions, please contact:

Ben E. Brewer III
President
Downtown Alliance/San Antonio
Centro San Antonio
515 E. Houston St., Ste.100
San Antonio, Texas 78205
P: (210) 225-3862
F: (210) 225-1569

www.downtownsanantonio.org
www.centrosanantonio.org

Torrey Carleton, Hon. AIA

Executive Director

AIA San Antonio

816 Camaron, Ste. 211

San Antonio, Texas 78212

210-226-4979 - Phone

210-226-3062 - Fax

torrey@aiaa.org

www.aiaa.org

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Shadow6109@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 11:48 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Project

I disagree with your concept. It is not a good idea to close Commerce St. and the idea of enlarging the park only gives another place for the city's homeless to hang out. It sounds to me that this park was created for the people who work at the Court House, NOT the people of San Antonio.
Myrna Devore

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: seharte@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 8:37 AM
To: Main Plaza

In a perfect world I vote for option B for Main Plaza.

Sarah Harte

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Scott Slaney [SSlaney@swagroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 6:49 PM
To: Larry Clark at BWC Design; William Hensley; Jonathan Card; Bob Ashcroft; BWCD-BethWells; Celia Munoz; German, John L; Joshua Engineering Group, Inc.; JQ-atellez; Lk-Flato-David Lake; Lk-Flato-Ted Flato; John Cutler; PPS-Phil Myrick
Cc: PPS-Fred Kent; Tom Wendorf; Monica Ramos (Pub works); Maggie Flores Scheppers; Lori Houston
Subject: RE: Last night's workshop

Larry:

Our thanks to you, Beth, Fred, Kathy and everyone involved for the opportunity to be a facilitator and learn volumes about the space and the group's point of view about its future. I'll assemble notes from group 5 as requested and send those to you Friday.

Best personal regards,

Scott Slaney

SWA

1245 West 18th Street

Houston, Texas 77008

713-868-1676 (o)

713-868-7409 (f)

sslaney@swagroup.com

www.swagroup.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Clark at BWC Design [mailto:lclark@bwcdesign.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 3:11 PM

To: COSA-PW-William Hensley; Jonathan Card; Bob Ashcroft; BWCD-BethWells; Celia Munoz; German, John L; Joshua Engineering Group, Inc.; JQ-atellez; Lk-Flato-David Lake; Lk-Flato-Ted Flato; John Cutler; Scott Slaney; PPS-Phil Myrick

Cc: PPS-Fred Kent; COSA-PW-Tom Wendorf; COSA-PW-MonicaRamos; COSA-PW-MaggieFS; COSA-PW-Lori Houston

Subject: Last night's workshop

Hello team:

Thanks for your facilitation work last night. We think it went well.

A few disgruntled people were observed leaving as the remainder got onto the buses, saying they were "against it" and they just came to say so, they didn't want to have any part in "the game".

I'd like each of you to follow-up with a quick email to me- about your group

1) What did you feel were the most important themes, and

2) Ideas and priorities that came out of your group,

.....before you forget?

Kathy felt like the group reports were good, but very brief and missed a lot of the good ideas that were probably discussed while you were in your groups.

BWCD is typing up the flip chart notes as I write this.

PPS will type up the games and we can expect to see a summary report next week

I am attaching notes taken by Dawn Larios at the Mayor's office which she emailed to me today. These are just her notes- they are not the complete flip-chart notes, but they do capture much of the result.

Dawn added her own footnote:

I felt that this meeting/exercise was such a wonderful way of incorporating everyone's ideas. There was a very diverse group, but I must mention that there weren't a lot of women, or young people. Also, I am assuming that we are going to encourage a healthy lifestyle, and for this I would think that it would be necessary to have an area for bikes (bike racks).

Thanks,

**Larry Clark
Bender Wells Clark Design
830 North Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-692-9221
210-223-8582 fax
210-724-2923 mobile
lclark@bwcdesign.com**

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Scott Slaney [SSlaney@swagroup.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2006 10:08 PM
To: Larry Clark at BWC Design; Jonathan Card; Bob Ashcroft; BWCD-BethWells; Celia Munoz; German, John L; Joshua Engineering Group, Inc.; JQ-atellez; Lk-Flato-David Lake; Lk-Flato-Ted Flato; John Cutler; Tom Wendorf
Cc: Monica Ramos (Pub works); William Hensley
Subject: RE: update on next week's public meeting...

Larry:

Thank you for the update and information.

John and I will look forward to helping with facilitation and collaborating again with PPS.

Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Clark at BWC Design [mailto:lclark@bwcdesign.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2006 5:58 PM
To: Jonathan Card; Bob Ashcroft; BWCD-BethWells; Celia Munoz; German, John L; Joshua Engineering Group, Inc.; JQ-atellez; Lk-Flato-David Lake; Lk-Flato-Ted Flato; John Cutler; Scott Slaney; COSA-PW-Tom Wendorf
Cc: COSA-PW-MonicaRamos; COSA-PW-William Hensley
Subject: Re: update on next week's public meeting...

You all may have seen the article:

"Mayor slowing plaza project "

Mayor Phil Hardberger, responding to complaints that he was moving too fast on the redevelopment of Main Plaza, "pulled the throttle back" on the project in an effort to garner more community support. Hardberger said he would add 60 days, and perhaps up to 90 days, to the public input and design phase of the project.

"We do want to have as much community support as possible," Hardberger told the San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board on Tuesday. "We're not going to try to push this down anyone's throat."

This came out last week and since then we have been working overtime to modify the public input process. I apologize for not updating all of you sooner but we have only just finalized our arrangements for Tuesday's meeting: rather than present various alternative design concepts for the plaza at this time we have decided to bring in PPS (Project for Public Spaces) for a Community Workshop on Tuesday. No designs will be prepared and presented until we have a thorough discussion of the public's vision for the plaza. No discussion of which streets to close, how many streets to close, how are we going to re-route traffic, etc. This is about building consensus on the program for the plaza.

This will be accomplished with an on-site visit and exercise called "The Place Game" which allows participants to evaluate the place and provide feedback. I have used this on a project with PPS in the past and it is very effective.

Fred Kent, President and Kathy Madden, Vice-President of PPS will be here to run the exercise (see attached). They arrive Tuesday mid-day around 2:30. We will brief them, meet with city staff and visit the plaza, then get to the One Stop Center by 430pm.

We will need 7 or 8 strong facilitators at the room at 430pm on Tuesday for training. These include:

Larry Clark
Beth Wells
Bob Ashcroft

**John Cutler
Scott Slaney
John German
Jonathan Card
Bill Hensley**

and / or others as may be necessary. Please confirm if you are on this list and will be able to attend.

**More information will follow tomorrow as we finalize all plans.
Thanks for remaining flexible on this project.**

**Larry Clark
Bender Wells Clark Design
830 North Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-692-9221
210-223-8582 fax
210-724-2923 mobile
lclark@bwcdesign.com**

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Sandy Hamby [hamby@3DI.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 2:09 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Tell us what you think

Option A seems to fit the idea/concept of "Cathedral Plaza" the best. It allows for gathering similar to plazas in Europe. The link to the Riverwalk is effective. Traffic flow will work better than the other options.

Option C is the second best solution. It is less effective than "A" because the park in front of the courthouse is split from the plaza immediately to the North. Current traffic is least disrupted with this option.

Option B is my last choice because it seems to divide a rather small area into three park settings; one focused on the municipal building, one focused on the Cathedral, and one focused on the Courthouse. The link to the River is unencumbered, but weakly identified. I do not mind closing Market Street.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Samuel Garcia [lguapo76@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:50 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment

To whom it may concern:

I would like to voice my satisfaction in the redesign and redevelopment of Main Plaza, perhaps, even closing down Flores and extending this conceptual plan to incorporate City Hall and Spanish Governor's Palace.

Thank you,
Samuel Garcia
239 Doolittle
San Antonio 78211

Yahoo! Messenger with Voice. [Make PC-to-Phone Calls](#) to the US (and 30+ countries) for 2¢/min or less.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Roland Jellett [bjellett0922@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2006 11:55 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Hello City main Plaza development committee

Hello Sirs and Madame's,

I really like Los Jardines for my taste and for my business. I like the fact that you open up the park areas and make them Pedestrian zones. It is vitally important for my business to offers areas like this, the river walk, and Hemisphere park because they are so pedestrian friendly and traffic lite as well as noise free. We need to connect the Cathedral and the river walk, they go naturally together, and compliment each other well as far as tourist numbers.

I lead guided historical tours around town three times daily and this spot is one of the featured highlights of my tour. It is a great photo spot, it is at the historic center of San Antonio, and beauty wise it is architecturally second to none. I appreciate your hard work towards a comprise. I personally think we need to keep big large truck traffic from the center of the city and reroute around such areas as this. This plan accomplishes that. I believe the lane, on this plan, directly adjacent to the court house should become a trolley ONLY lane. (or PD and City vehicles) The less noise in the area the better. I would even go so far as to put some historical interpretive pieces in the center of the plaza. You currently have very little. But make this an outdoor living class room, where you interpret the Historic, Botanical, Architectural, Genealogical, geological(water and aquifer), and present day diversity, development, and significance of the this area.

Just a Thought,

Buzz Jellett
224-0773
Segway Tours

Buzz Jellett
SegCity
1-210-224-0773
www.segcity.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Robert Shearer [rshearer@cambridgerealty.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 12:16 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: My thoughts on Main Plaza proposals

Gentlemen / Ladies / Mayor Hardberger –

I think the revised proposals are significant improvements from the original proposal. Overall, I think that any permanent street closures are not in the best interests of the goals of a Plaza. I do feel, however that we could extend the Plaza into one or two lanes of ALL the existing streets – we probably don't need four lanes on all sides of the current Plaza like we have now. The north-south streets could additionally have the capability of putting up removable barricades for special events rather than permanent closures. Also, modifying the current walkway/park at the RiverWalk so that it connects to something / anything would be important to its health. Currently, as a dead end, it is pretty sad place to be.

Keep moving forward – best wishes, Bob Shearer, president, Cambridge Realty Group, Inc.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: ROBERT FLENNER [rsflenner@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:31 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main plaza redevelopment

I would support expansion and beautification of the plaza, with the compromise proposals of not closing Commerce and Dolorosa except for special events. I would not support the removal of the existing trees. Bob Flenner

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Robert A Garcia
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 8:39 AM
To: Main Plaza

DON'T CLOSE THE STREETS. LEAVE THEM AS IS. JUST FIX UP THE PARK.

THANK YOU!

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: rob cam [la2yah@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:15 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

I support the mayor efforts in his attempt to return some history to the the Courthouse area. After seeing a picture 20 years ago of the old main plaza and Courthouse, I have always hoped that someday this area would be restored.

One thing that could also be done to beautify this area would be to REMOVE that awful pink tumor on the SW side of the old Courthouse, that is by far the worst eyesore of that area.

Thank You
Robert Campos
382-4405

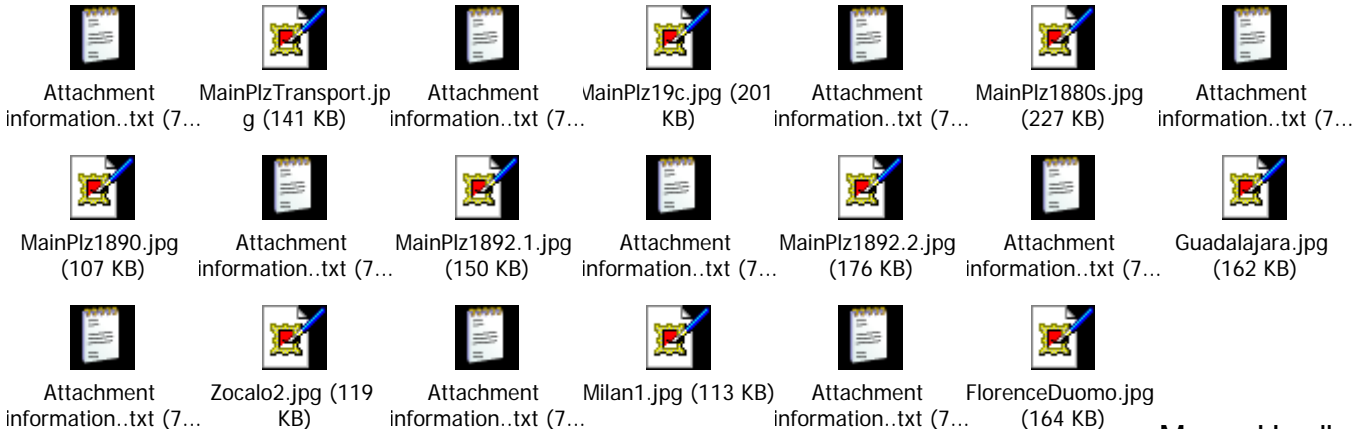
Old things are new again.

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around <http://mail.yahoo.com>

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: rlowey-ball@fpcarch.com
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 2:55 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Development

Attachments: Attachment information.; MainPlzTransport.jpg; Attachment information.; MainPlz19c.jpg; Attachment information.; MainPlz1880s.jpg; Attachment information.; MainPlz1890.jpg; Attachment information.; MainPlz1892.1.jpg; Attachment information.; MainPlz1892.2.jpg; Attachment information.; Guadalajara.jpg; Attachment information.; Zocalo2.jpg; Attachment information.; Milan1.jpg; Attachment information.; FlorenceDuomo.jpg



Mayor Hardberger

is to be applauded and commended for his desire make improvements to Main Plaza/ Pla de Las Islas. There are many things that can be done to improve the Plaza:

- 1 Redesign the fountain entirely. Water features don't have to be traditional fountains.
- 2 Eliminate metered parking entirely and increase the size of the plaza to the edge of the former parking
- 3 Provide better landscape and tree canopy lighting
- 4 Get rid of the ugly trash receptacles that are there now and replace with ones that are chose on aesthetic grounds
- 5 Get rid of the bad benches that are there now and consider using site walls for seating instead
- 6 Get rid of the unsightly electrical service that is above ground and replace with in-ground electrical
- 7 Add kiosks for limited drink and food service on the plaza
- 8 Get rid of the confusing graphics now in use and replace with coordinated signage and interpretive signage not only for the Plaza but also for the surrounding historic buildings.
- 9 Study closing a lane on Main Street in front of the Cathedral to increase the amount of space in front of it, but keep Main Street open.
- 10 Alternatively, close Main Street entirely.
- 11 Do not close Soledad, Commerce or Market Streets - let these streets be streets as they have always been
- 12 Keep the trees and consider adding more of them - shade is extremely important in this environment
- 13 Most radical concept - keep the elevation of Soldead as it is, but "bridge" a 60 foot section of it and provide wide, landscaped and well-lit steps *underneath Soledad* to the park immediately to the east, leading down to the river. This will link 2 of San Antonio's most important assets and provide an easy way for tourists and citizens on the River to walk up to Plaza de Las Islas.
- 13.1 For those who would say that this is too costly, recall that the City did something *very similar* to it when it build the Paseo del Alamo under LoSoya Street at the same time that the San Antonio

Hyatt Regency was built connecting Alamo Plaza to the San Antonio River with a water garden. It can be done. It should be done.

14 Plaza de Las Islas/Main Plaza has traditionally been a center of transportation for San Antonio. It is not correct, nor supported by the facts or historical photographs contained in "A Place in Time, A pictorial view of San Antonio's past", that the Plaza has been a primarily people place. Historically it was always heavily used by covered wagons, buckboards, draught vehicles carrying goods, commerce, and agricultural products.

15 Go to GoogleEarth.com and take a look at the world's great plazas in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Paris, Italy, London. The vast majority of them are *surrounded* by vehicular traffic which help make them the vibrant places they are today. Look particularly at the Zocalo in Mexico City and the grand, cruciform plaza in front of the Cathedral in Guadalajara. The plaza in front of the Cathedrals in Milan and Florence are similarly surrounded by traffic. If you have been there, and most of those reading this probably have, they are beautiful and busy places to be, the kind of places that energize the public.

16 Through Places - successful urban spaces and places are "through spaces" - that is, people and cars move *through* them on the way to somewhere else, maybe lingering for a while before moving on. If you want to see a failed public space, look no farther than Hemisfair Plaza which is a dead end and a destination to nowhere. Cutting Main Plaza off from traffic is probably the wrong way of going about urban design.

Attached with this email are pictures of a number of plazas from around the world.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond. I have every confidence that the Mayor and his talented team of designers and consultants can come up with a superior design for Main Plaza/Plaze de Las Islas that will make it a place of pride and enjoyment for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Roy Lowey-Ball, AIA
3 Bloomsbury Square
San Antonio, Texas 78218

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Rivera, Imelda P. [IPRivera@CPSEnergy.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 2:31 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Revitalization

I like the idea of closing off two streets to make a pedestrian-friendly park; there are a lot of tourists and Downtown employees who walk through these streets. However, how much will these street closures affect the traffic flow? There are many VIA bus riders that commute through and from these streets.

Imelda P. Rivera
imelda_p_rivera@yahoo.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Retherford, Kurt [KRetherford@swri.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 10:07 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: May 10 presentation

Hi,

I like Option B "Los Jardines" best.

You might consider phasing the closure of streets to one at a time per year over 3 years. This would let the cultural retail opportunities develop somewhat organically as interest in the plaza grows and grows.

Thanks,

Dr. Kurt D. Retherford
KRetherford@swri.edu

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Raul Zuniga [raul@villapark-sa.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 9:39 AM
To: Main Plaza
Cc: jose@villapark-sa.com
Subject: Traffic Detour Design

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

WHO INITIATED THIS PROJECT? CAN THE DESIGN BE REVISED? NOT IN FAVOR OF THE CURRENT **TRAFFIC (DETOUR) DESIGN**. THE DESIGN HAS POTENTIAL TO WORK. MY TWO CENTS ARE TO ONLY CLOSE TRAFFIC IN FRONT OF CHURCH (S.MAIN AVE.) AND IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE (MAIN PLAZA). DOLOROSA & COMMERCE ARE VITAL ROADS FOR TRAFFIC MOVING THRU DOWNTOWN. IF PRESENT DESIGN IS CONSTRUCTED YOU THE C.O.S.A. WOULD ACHIEVE THE AWARD OF MOST EXPENSIVE **TRAFFIC (DETOUR) DESIGN** TO DATE. BEUROCRATES IN CITY HALL DO NOT DISRUPT TRAFFIC FLOW DOWN TOWN.

RAUL ZUNIGA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: pabsher@att.net
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2006 8:40 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works); Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza Re-Development Project

Would you please advise me when, where, and what time the next Public Meeting on the Plaza Re-Development Project will be. The web-site indicates the next meeting is in May but there is no amplifying information.

Thank You

Patrick T. Absher, President
Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio
Phone (210) 680-0940
Cell (210) 260-9961
pabsher@att.net

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: pabsher@att.net
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2006 9:53 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment Project

My name is Pat Absher; my telephone is (cell) 260-9961; my address is 6701 Farrow Place, San Antonio 78240; and my e-mail is pabsher@att.net.
I am the President of the Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio and am very interested in staying informed and involved regarding the Main Plaza Project.

Thank You

Pat Absher

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: p.mackellan [p.mackellan@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 5:44 PM
To: Main Plaza

Anything and everything should be done to make all of San Antonio more proud of its historical areas and to create community and link areas of the city together. I support this work at the Main Plaza.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: nnaik@alamocityhotels.com
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2006 11:38 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Economic Impact

Who is on the Committee on this project? Please forward the list.

Who is handling the Economic Impact and ROI on the committee?

Thank you.

Nick Naik
Serene Lodging Inc.
7300 Blanco Rd., Suite 301
San Antonio, TX 78216
210-336-4263 - Cell number
210-579-9400 - efax number

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: nnaik@alamocityhotels.com
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2006 11:35 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Return on Investment

To whom it may concern:

Could you forward us the ROI on the \$10,000,000 for the Main Plaza project.

1. We recommend that just by removing the Buses from Delarosa and Commerce can beautify the Main Plaza. It will not cost \$10,000,000 to do this.
2. Please visit the Main Plaza once all business closes around Main Plaza. There is nobody there to use the Main Plaza. There is no reason for tourist to visit Main Plaza. Please list the attractions? We are afraid that the Main Plaza can become a place for Homeless to hang out. Any public place will be a haven for homeless. We recommend you spend the \$10,000,000 to house homeless instead.
3. Never mix State and Church. In community, this project is discussed as San Fernando Cathedral project using people's money. Mayor may gain some votes and lose some.
4. We recommend, remove buses from Delarosa and commerce, remove Taxi stand from Main Plaza, Trim the trees in the Main Plaza and heavily light up the Main Plaza. This will immediately beautify the area. Just trimming the trees and adding light will make a huge difference. Can City try that?

Please respond if you can.

Thank you.

Nick Naik
Serene Lodging Inc.
7300 Blanco Rd., Suite 301
San Antonio, TX 78216
210-336-4263 - Cell number
210-579-9400 - efax number

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Myra & Stewart Fischer [mfischer9@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:22 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

After viewing the proposed plan to renovate Main Plaza, it has occurred to me that most of what is desired could be accomplished through a plan to selectively close the streets as required whenever a special event is planned for the Plaza. This could be accomplished in ways that would be attractive while at the same time allowing the motorists to use the streets whenever there is no special activity at the Plaza.

There are two aspects of the proposed street closures that I have not seen addressed. The first of these is the maintenance problems at the termini of the existing streets, particularly at night. I can foresee a vehicle missing one of the turns at least once a week. This will be hazardous, resulting in regular repairs to the Park and the possibility of liability of the City because it has built a nuisance into the street. The second problem is that the interruption of the streets will require additional turns for a driver to resume his trip.

Stewart Fischer
Director of Traffic and Transportation 1960-80

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Munoz Debbie Ctr DLIELC/LEACM [Debbie.Munoz.ctr@lackland.af.mil]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 2:37 PM
To: Main Plaza

Main Plaza Redevelopment Committee:

My vote as a citizen of San Antonio is for Option B: Los Jardines

This would give San Antonio a real feel of old world and with the Wi-Fi a new technologically advance connected world feel. Los Jardines would be a bridge for old and futuristic lifestyles.

I've been to San Francisco and Union Square which is really cool. Jackson Square in New Orleans which connects St. Louis Cathedral to a grandious square. The addition ot Los Jardines would be an attraction to compete to the scale of both of these cities for San Antonio citizens and Tourist both.

Build it and they will come. Music, community, Food, Religion, and Justice and awesome mix for San Antonio.

Debbie Munoz

3500 Goliad #26

San Antonio, TX 78223

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Morales, Herlinda M [herlinda.morales@laquinta.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 11:00 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: main plaza

I think it is an excellent idea to rennovate our culture and our Great City of San Antonio Plaza.. This will bring more visitors and local families to the downtown.. Its hard to go DT when ther are a lot of empt gaps between the River walk and Market Square area.

It looks beautiful!

Herlinda Morales
Group/Tour & FIT Dept
LQ Management L.L.C
800-642-4239 Group
877-586-8757 Tour
877-777-6533 FIT
800-531-5915 Hotel/Corp Personnel
www.LQ.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Mike Glenn [mikeglenn7@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:00 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Redevelopment

All,

Great job on the design! I travel for a living & a reinvigorated downtown Plaza can make a huge difference to the city in dollars & reputation. Stay on budget & do the job right!

Cheers, Mike Glenn

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Michael Reyes [michaelsmu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:20 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment Proposal

Dear Main Plaza Redevelopment Staff,

Having been born and raised in San Antonio, I understand the appreciation to highlight and expand this great historic plaza. However, having traveled Europe and currently living in the nation's capital Washington, D.C., I think for a plaza to successfully make use of the existing space, traffic flow will absolutely need to be redirected. Although there are concerns by downtown residents, I think it is important to emphasize that traffic will not be halted but rather simply redirected by one-block or so which is hardly an inconvenience. Moreover, cities around the world have done the same including Mexico City, Munich, Germany, and New York.

As an international city, San Antonio would benefit by doing the same.

The idea that redirecting traffic will be chaotic is simply an exaggeration. Those critics are often those that are not susceptible to change and thus, they will always be reluctant to any new ideas that will involve anything beyond the norm. However, if the city of San Antonio listened to these same critics, the city would never have had the great successes that it has had with everything from the renovation of the convention center to the beautification of the downtown area.

In short, can you imagine if the developer of the River Walk more than 50 years ago listened to critics complaining about traffic being disrupted? Can you imagine a San Antonio without a River Walk simply because of some critics were not susceptible to change?

It's time for the expansion of the Main Plaza as the central focal point of the beautiful and historical city that is San Antonio.

Michael Reyes
Washington, D.C.
202-489-3749

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Melissa Castro Killen [mcastro@castro-killen.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2006 6:01 PM
To: Tom Wendorf
Cc: lclark@bwcdesign.com; William Hensley; Monica Ramos (Pub works); Maggie Flores Scheppers; Kent Hickingbottom
Subject: RE: Main Plaza

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Tom,

Just a reminder, when the plan is ready, VIA would like to see at least 30 days prior to it going to council. This will ensure we have enough time to digest and comment.

Thanks!

Melissa

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Wendorf [mailto:TWendorf@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2006 1:15 PM
To: mcastro@castro-killen.com; Tom Wendorf
Cc: lclark@bwcdesign.com; William Hensley; Monica Ramos (Pub works); Maggie Flores Scheppers; Kent Hickingbottom
Subject: RE: Main Plaza

Good. I'm open to any and all ideas.

--- Original Message ---

From: "Melissa Castro Killen" <mcastro@castro-killen.com>
Sent: Tue 4/11/06 1:17 pm
To: "Tom Wendorf" <TWendorf@sanantonio.gov>
Cc: "'Larry Clark (E-mail)'" <lclark@bwcdesign.com>, "William Hensley"

<WHensley@sanantonio.gov>, "Monica Ramos (Pub works)"

<MRamos@sanantonio.gov>, "Maggie Flores Scheppers"

<MaggieF@sanantonio.gov>, "Kent Hickingbottom"

<KHickingbottom@sanantonio.gov>

Subject: RE: **Main Plaza**

Tom,

I know you personally have been very receptive to me and to VIA. I just want

to make sure we are not left out of the loop. Again, thanks,

PS. VIA is meeting with members of the MPO re: Policy 6 and the allocation

to transit. Also, we need to discuss the future call for projects, the criteria, and how to stop costs over-runs.

Thanks again,

Melissa

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Wendorf [mailto:TWendorf@sanantonio.gov]

Sent: **Tuesday, April 11, 2006 1:12 PM**

To: Melissa Castro Killen

Cc: Larry Clark (E-mail); William Hensley; Monica Ramos (Pub works);

Maggie

Flores Scheppers; Kent Hickingbottom

Subject: RE: **Main Plaza**

Melissa,

Thanks for the email. I visited with Larry Clark last night after the presentation and expressed your concerns. He has some answers and will need

to do more research.

Public Transit is a huge concern and we need to work with transit in any future condition at **Main Plaza**.

I have specifically instructed staff to schedule the next meetings on
dates
that don't conflict with VIA Board Meetings; if possible.

I didn't want to get into details last night, but there have been
technical
difficulties with the feedback tool on the website. I have been told
that
this would be fixed today or Wednesday.

Melissa I value your input and want to make sure that you and the VIA
Board
understand that we are working in partnership with your staff. I have
copied Larry Clark on this email so he can contact you for further info
if
needed. Bill Hensley is the Staff Architect for COSA; feel free to
contact
him if needed. Always feel free to contact me.

Tom

Thomas G. Wendorf, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City of San Antonio, TX
210-207-8025 office
210-207-4406 fax
twendorf@sanantonio.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa Castro Killen [mailto:mcastro@castro-killen.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 11:55 AM
To: Tom Wendorf
Subject: Main Plaza

Tom,

1. Research

As a VIA Trustee and resident of San Antonio, I want to make sure any plans to alter Main Plaza are thoroughly researched, giving the public the pros and cons, as opposed to "we are going to do it, public you can say in how it looks." The first question should be "should we do it?"

Some cities in the United States (about 200), during the 70's and 80's implemented closure of downtown streets to create pedestrian friendly areas.

Most of these cities have re-opened the streets to vehicular traffic.

The

National Main Street Center found in 1998 that about 78% of these cities re-opened streets to vehicular traffic; 10% are considering it and 12% considered the pedestrian areas successful.

Some examples include:

Buffalo, N.Y. - 1984 closed Main Street to create a pedestrian transit mall;

The area proved to be not an economic success and in fact may have contributed to the economic decline in downtown Buffalo by isolating key properties and complicating

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

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To: Tom Wendorf
Cc: 'Larry Clark (E-mail)'; William Hensley; Monica Ramos (Pub works); Maggie Flores Scheppers; Kent Hickingbottom
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Tom

Thomas G. Wendorf, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City of San Antonio, TX
210-207-8025 office
210-207-4406 fax
twendorf@sanantonio.gov

-----Original Message-----

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To: Tom Wendorf
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Some examples include:

Buffalo, N.Y. – 1984 closed Main Street to create a pedestrian transit mall; The area proved to be not an economic success and in fact may have contributed to the economic decline in downtown Buffalo by isolating key properties and complicating traffic circulation.

Fresno, CA.- 1964 closed Fulton street. In 2001 retained the ELS Architect and Urban Design Group to evaluate the Fulton area. The Group held many public meetings and established a TAC. Based on market research, community information, and a review of successful shopping streets, ELS recommended re-opening the full length of Fulton Street to improve the economic climate and stimulate revitalization.

Kalamazoo- 1958 closed streets 1998 re-opened to vehicular traffic

Tulsa, OK- 1970's closed streets 2000-01' re-opened streets to vehicular traffic

2. Public Transportation must be considered

In any plan to alter Main Plaza, public transportation issues must be addressed. It may be easy for a car to merely drive down another street, but with VIA, we must find routes that work, Right of Way that is accessible and ample for bus shelters, inform our riders, print new bus schedules, have public hearings on alteration of routes, etc. Our Citizens Advisory Committee advised us last night that 14 out of 19 members submitted their opinions on Main Plaza to us:

13 did NOT agree with the COSA modifying Main Plaza; 1 agreed with the COSA modifying Main Plaza.

When asked about a plan that closed Soledad and Main and kept Commerce and Dolorosa open 9 responded they did NOT agree with this and 5 responded they did agree with this.

When asked about a plan that closes 3 streets and leaves Commerce Open 13 responded they did NOT agree with this, 1 responded they did agree.

The above responses are from my notes, I believe VIA will provide the City with an official document regarding the Citizens Advisory Committee recommendation.

3. Public Meetings

The first two public meetings were held on days the VIA Board of Trustees meets, we were unable to attend.

4. Website

The website does not allow public comment.

I appreciate your briefing the Board on Main Plaza and I appreciate your inclusion of VIA in the planning process of any modification to Main Plaza. My duty as a VIA trustee is to make sure the riders don't suffer and that we provide them with the best public transportation service.

Thanks,

Melissa Castro Killen

Castro Killen, P.C.

115 E. Travis, Suite 314

San Antonio, Texas 78205

Ph (210) 220-1008

Fax (210) 220-1801

www.castro-killen.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: McGahey, Dianne [Dianne.McGahey@c-b.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 10:05 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: FW: URGENT Reply Requested: Main Plaza Project

It would be a mistake to "close" the streets.

Options 3 & 4, to just narrow the streets, would be better for traffic and continue to encourage usage of the mass transit system. Closing sections of active streets could cause confusion and discourage tourism and strongly effect merchants around that area.

S. Dianne McGahey

Carter & Burgess, Inc.

Intern, San Antonio, Building Programs Division

911 North Central Parkway, Suite 425, San Antonio, TX 78232

PH: 210.494.0088, FX: 210.494.4525

Subject: URGENT Reply Requested: Main Plaza Project

MAIN PLAZA PROJECT

• DTA MAIN PLAZA SURVEY

Downtown Alliance Members & Friends:

This is to encourage you to visit the City of San Antonio's website to review the proposals for Main Plaza that were presented at the 3rd Public Meeting on Wednesday, May 10th. **Please go to this link: [Main Plaza](#)**. The City would like your feedback regarding your reaction to the various options and elements of each plan, so please forward your comments to the City using the "Tell Us What You Think" option.

We would also like a bit of feedback from you based on some current discussion as to where this might end up. Please respond to this email by the end of business on Thursday, May 18th, and give us your responses to the following questions. We would really appreciate your feedback as the Board of Directors would like to issue a formal position based on your opinions.

[main plaza](#)

• DTA MAIN PLAZA SURVEY

If Commerce Street and Dolorosa/Market (east/west streets adjacent to the Plaza) are to remain open to traffic and generally in their current alignment, which of the following options would you support?

1. The permanent closure of Main Street adjacent to the Plaza to traffic. Improvements would be made in this area that support activities that would be designed and programmed for the improved Plaza.
2. The permanent closure of Soledad Street (Main Plaza East) adjacent to the Plaza to traffic. Improvements would be made to this area that would create a connection down to the RiverWalk where the current park (Portal San Fernando) is located.
3. The narrowing of Main Street adjacent to the Plaza. This would entail the narrowing of Main Street to two lanes southbound to still accommodate vehicular traffic with the ability to be closed for pedestrian activities and events as necessary. At some point in the future, this portion of Main Street might be permanently closed to vehicular traffic depending on the activities that would be programmed for Main Plaza.
4. The narrowing of Soledad Street (Main Plaza East) adjacent to the Plaza. This would entail the narrowing of Soledad Street to two lanes northbound to still accommodate vehicular traffic with the ability to be closed for pedestrian activities and events as necessary. At some point in the future, this portion of Soledad Street might be permanently closed to vehicular traffic depending on the activities that would be programmed for Main Plaza

Please reply to this email by end of business on Thursday, May 18, 2006 with any combination of the above four options. (As an example, please reply, "Options 3 & 4")

Also, feel free to provide any additional comments in your email reply. Any questions, call us at (210) 225- 3862. **Thank You!**

The Downtown Alliance San Antonio

515 E Houston

Suite 100

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210.225.3862

bebrewer@downtownsa.org

<http://www.downtownsa.org>

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The Downtown Alliance San Antonio | 515 E Houston | Suite 100 | San Antonio | TX | 78205

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Matt Van Smack [matt_van_smack1970@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 10:01 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Turn Around at Flores & Reflect The People, Places and Things That Have Made San Antonio (map attached)

Attachments: 3700526452-Flores Street turn around and themed rooms in Main Plaza.xls



Flores Street turn
around and ...

May 16, 2006

Dear Main Plaza Committee,

The Zolcalo Verde plan has the most potential, however the plan doesn't resolve traffic issues caused by closing Main nor does it reflect the people, places and things that helped shape San Antonio.

Turn Around

While leaving Soledad open with two lanes of northbound traffic, completely closing Main creates a southbound traffic issue without a solution. By creating a turn around at Flores, westbound traffic on Commerce can easily revert back to Dolorosa. By using a turn around, southbound travelers on Main may continue to their destination. Flores would become two southbound lanes plus a turn around or Flores would become two southbound lanes, one northbound lane and a turn around from Commerce to Dolorosa.

Main Plaza

To make Main plaza a destination for tourist and citizens alike, the area needs to be transformed into "rooms" for various uses. To help make these rooms, the pedestrian walkways do not have to be at the same elevation throughout the plaza.

The Missions — The corner of Commerce and Soledad will reflect the missions' influence with an elliptical aqueduct and a representation of the San Jose mill. A slightly elevated pathway will lead visitors away from street level sidewalks to watch and hear water ripple from the mill down an aqueduct system. Water flows towards the center of the plaza eventually falling into a pool of water that breaks into sunrays. These rays represent the actual use of the aqueduct system to grow crops in the fields around the missions. Perhaps part of the mill can be the café that has been discussed.

Cattle Trail — The corner of Dolorosa and Soledad will romanticize the days of riding the cattle trail. Moving along a path up from street level, visitors will pass a few longhorns in the grass. Atop the pathway, a cowboy rests beside a campfire. At night, the water flowing over the metal flames of the campfire will reflect crimson lights. As these red and yellow lights glow on the cowboy statue, visitors are pulled back in time when San Antonio was the beginning of cattle drives northward. At street level, visitors will pass by blue waterfalls that represent the Edwards Aquifer.

Sunken Amphitheater — The reverse of the Cattle Trail will be the backdrop for a small stage. While only a few feet below street level, the elevated Cowboy Campfire will help block street noise while small groups perform their talents to onlookers.

Pedestrian Friendly Crossing — By elevating designated crosswalks about an inch, drivers will be more alert to slow down. Archways representing San Fernando will be at each major crossing providing a doorway to the plaza. Along with regular signage, inside the pavement and archways LED lights will flash when pedestrians are crossing. These are used in front of the Randolph AFB

Elementary School and will be effective downtown. Dividing Soledad in the middle of the block with a small traffic island will help protect pedestrians crossing from the river to the plaza.

Main — The area directly in front of San Fernando will become an open stone walkway, perfect for Fiesta and other downtown events.

Circle of Children — The focal point across from the river entrance will be a circle of children with one empty space allowing anyone and everyone to join in the celebration of what has and will continue to make San Antonio a unique city.

Thank you for allowing public input,

**Matt Tetreault
225 Trudy Lane
Universal City, Texas 78148
(Work, shop, etc. in San Antonio)**

Blab-away for as little as 1¢/min. Make [PC-to-Phone Calls](#) using Yahoo! Messenger with Voice.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Mary Gonzalez
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2006 1:07 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: FW: Main Plaza Meeting

Monica,

Do you have access to a tape recorder and portable microphone?? City Arch. office needs one for tomorrow;
or does Sandra our IT person have some?? Please advise.

Mary Bea. Gonzalez

Public Works

Fiscal Officer, Capital Programs

207-8062

-----Original Message-----

From: Kent Hickingbottom
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 10:32 PM
To: Maggie Flores Scheppers; Monica Ramos (Pub works); William Hensley; Mary Gonzalez; Maria Villagomez; John Wolters
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Meeting

Bill,

Per our conversation, please make sure that we have a tape recorder with microphone and stand at each station. If you need to rent this equipment, please work through Mary Gonzalez. In addition, as mentioned below, you will need to make sure that we have a note taker at each station and someone that the constituent can voice their concerns to. If you need CPOs, etc., please contact John Wolters. I want to make sure that there are no issues at the meeting so please make sure we have the necessary staff and equipment. In addition, it was mentioned today that you will need to provide bottled water and cookies for the event. Please let me know if you need any assistance with this purchase.

Maggie/Monica,

Did I miss anything?

Thanks, Kent

From: Maggie Flores Scheppers
Sent: Mon 5/8/2006 3:09 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works); William Hensley
Cc: Kent Hickingbottom
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Meeting

Bill,

There are several people you could ask.

Parks

Scott Stover and some of his staff

Sabastian Guajardo

CIP

CPOs

DO

SPCs

Arch. Office

Chester

George

Dale

Gig

Guillermo

(Any one else you don't have to pay overtime to)

The key thing is you must ask.

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 1:21 PM
To: William Hensley
Cc: Kent Hickingbottom; Maggie Flores Scheppers
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Meeting

Couldn't you ask the Parks people you've been coordinating with to assist?

Monica Ramos

Acting Administrative Services Manager

Public Works Department

City of San Antonio

210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: William Hensley

Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 12:44 PM

To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)

Cc: Kent Hickingbottom; Maggie Flores Scheppers

Subject: RE: Main Plaza Meeting

10... That would take my entire staff. I will put the word out here. In your past experience- Who else do we typically ask for such staff support, without overtime expense? Might CPO's and engineers/techs be able to help? Parks and Planning staff could also be interested and good at recording such planning oriented info.

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 10:52 AM
To: William Hensley
Cc: Kent Hickingbottom; Maggie Flores Scheppers
Subject: Main Plaza Meeting

I spoke with Tom this morning about the meeting.

Tom would like to make sure we have no less than 2 staffers at each alternative station to record people's comments both on paper and with some sort of recording mechanism be it a tape recorder or some other device. You may need to check with the Center to see if they have any of this equipment. If not, then you may have to make arrangements with whatever company handles their AV contract.

Additionally, we will need 4 people to work the sign in tables. Together with the staffers at each station, you will need to secure a total of 10 staff people to help.

Also, you will need to secure bottled water and cookies for the meeting. In her experience, Maggie has stated that she purchased 3 cases of bottled water and that the total including cookies should be no more than \$30 which is available through petty cash.

Please be sure to check with Larry as well to make sure that all materials and equipment needs are met. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks.

Monica Ramos

Acting Administrative Services Manager

Public Works Department

City of San Antonio

210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: marion lazor [mcraw05@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 11:10 PM
To: Main Plaza

Hi my stepfather did all the rock work on main plaza. i would like to have one of the stones when they distroy the plaza.

marion lazor
(210)337-5631

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Manuel Martinez [manuel.martinez@diariosrumbo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 11:32 AM
To: Main Plaza

Manuel Martínez Torres

Deputy Managing Editor

RUMBO de San Antonio

115 E Travis, 8th Floor

San Antonio, TX 78205

T: (210) 581-3675

C: (210) 860-9213

F: (210) 581-3666

manuel.martinez@diariosrumbo.com

www.diariosrumbo.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Maggie Flores Scheppers
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 12:41 PM
To: Main Plaza

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Liza Gonzalez [LGonzalez@sachamber.org]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2006 3:58 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Marcel Johnson
Subject: RE: Main Plaza timeline update

Thanks!!g

>>> "Monica Ramos (Pub works)" <MRamos@sanantonio.gov> 4/3/2006 3:52:41 PM >>>

Below is the updated timeline. The website will be updated shortly. Thank you!

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

•

February 28, 2006- First Public Meeting

March 28, 2006- Second Public Workshop (Project for Public Spaces)

April 2006- Third Public Meeting to review options

April – May 2006- Stakeholder Meetings and Focus Groups

May 2006- Fourth Public Meeting to present preferred plan

Early June 2006 (tentative)- City Council “B” Session

July/August 2006 (tentative)- Design Development/ Construction Documents

October 2006 (tentative)- Start Construction

Winter 2007 (tentative)- Phase 1 construction substantially complete

From: Liza Gonzalez [mailto:LGonzalez@sachamber.org]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2006 4:06 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Marcel Johnson
Subject: Main Plaza timeline update

Monica-

Would you mind sending an updated timeline to Marcel Johnson, our Area Business Council VP and myself on Monday?

Our Central Area Council is meeting on Tuesday and we would like to have this info for them.

Thanks so much! Hope you have a great weekend.liza

Liza Gonzalez
Vice President-Public Affairs
The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
p (210) 229-2162
f (210) 229-1600
lgonzalez@sachamber.org

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Liza Gonzalez [LGonzalez@sachamber.org]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2006 4:06 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Marcel Johnson
Subject: Main Plaza timeline update

Monica-

Would you mind sending an updated timeline to Marcel Johnson, our Area Business Council VP and myself on Monday?

Our Central Area Council is meeting on Tuesday and we would like to have this info for them.

Thanks so much! Hope you have a great weekend.liza

Liza Gonzalez
Vice President-Public Affairs
The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
p (210) 229-2162
f (210) 229-1600
lgonzalez@sachamber.org

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Liza Gonzalez [LGonzalez@sachamber.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 4:39 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Design Principles

thanks- i just didn't want to retype it! thanks =)

>>> "Monica Ramos (Pub works)" <MRamos@sanantonio.gov> 3/1/2006 4:31 PM >>>

Please keep in mind that all dates are tentative.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

-----Original Message-----

From: Liza Gonzalez [mailto:LGonzalez@sachamber.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 4:29 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Re: Main Plaza Design Principles

Monica, I was looking for the timeline. Would you please send? thanks.lg

>>> "Monica Ramos (Pub works)" <MRamos@sanantonio.gov> 3/1/2006 4:19 PM >>>

I'm so sorry this is late. The day just got away from me.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax
<<csamainplaza-PlazaDesignPrinciples.doc>>

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Lewis S. Fisher [lfisher@fisherheck.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 12:31 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Comments

Attachments: fh-lf.jpg



fh-lf.jpg (7 KB)

I prefer Option C and offer the following comments:

I like the sense of one, large, "civically-scaled" space. This space should be very open so that you can see the entire front facades of the cathedral and the courthouse. (Don't plant any trees in front of these two structures.) This central part of the plaza should be paved and have a water feature on axis with the courthouse and the cathedral. This would move your water feature to the east, helping to create a larger space in front of the church. A contrasting long, narrow axis would extend from the front doors of the Courthouse.

The more intimately scaled spaces can occur along the north, east and south sides of the plaza. This perimeter zone would be created by a series of gardens. Most of the gardens would be raised gardens with continuous seating edges. They would define the perimeter along Commerce, and Soledad Streets. The raised beds could create mini-gardens around these sides of the plaza. The space between the raised gardens would be comfortably narrow so that they created the intimate spaces for sitting and lingering. Special objects and features would enrich these small scale spaces.

The raised gardens could vary in design, but they should all create shade for seating and contain plants that flourish in the shade. Large scale trees could be planted in the raised beds, that would give a high tree canopy. Smaller scaled street trees could occur around the outside of the surrounding streets.

Other gardens could occupy the perimeter zone and be flush with the paving, without trees, and be planted with blooming plants that enjoy the sun, ground cover, or grass. This would allow the plaza to have an open Zocalo feeling without it being entirely paved. This would also allow longer vista and allow you to visually connect the cathedral part of the plaza to the courthouse part.

The book store building should become a sidewalk cafe that spills out into the Portal space and the plaza.

I can live with temporary or permanent closure of Main and Soledad streets.

Lewis Fisher
Fisher*Heck Architects
915 South St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX. 78205
Tel 210.299.1500 ext. 306
Fax 210.299.1622
www.fisherheck.com
<mailto:lfisher@fisherheck.com>

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Lerma Dan L Civ 448 MSUG/GBMSC [Dan.Lerma@Tinker.af.mil]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 12:11 PM
To: Main Plaza

Dan Lerma
Contract Repair Flight
448 MSUG/GBMSC
Com: 405-734-4718
DSN: 884-4718

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: leclercq@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 11:54 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

I support the permanent closure of both East-West streets. The wall that fronts the river park should be removed and replaced with a wide stair case to the river inviting more pedestrian flow. The park should be one continuous theme and not divided into sections with different purposes. I am a Downtown resident and look forward to this beautiful gateway to the Cathedral and Market square.

Bob LeClercq
701 No. St. Marys #14
S.A. 78205

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Larry Schmidt [schmidt@MarmonMok.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:02 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment

I feel Option C, and closing Soledad Street would be the best option. The other options, while they incorporate more contiguous space into the plaza, make traffic flow around it difficult.

Thank you,

Larry Schmidt, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: LALoomis@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2006 11:34 AM
To: letters@express-news.net; rseltzer@express-news.net; gjefferson@express-news.net;
Mayor Hardberger; Art Hall; Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Plan B is best for Main Plaza redevelopment

Letter to the Editor:

I was much dismayed to read on May 22 in the Express-News' "Your Turn" section the letter to Mayor Phil Hardberger from Dick Evans, CEO of Cullen/Frost Bankers, suggesting that the mayor and council not only keep open Commerce and Dolorosa/Market streets for the redevelopment of Main Plaza, but also Soledad, which runs north-south. Evan's idea goes well beyond the Mayor Phil Hardberger's compromise plan, as reported by Greg Jefferson on May 17: the mayor, bowing to pressure from business interests, would keep open the plaza's two west-east routes, Commerce and Dolorosa.

Obviously, Tom Frost and Dick Evans aren't even looking at the three plot plans for the grounds, developed by Bender Wells Clark Design and presented to the public at a meeting on May 10. In his letter, Evans says he supports the "general concept" of Plan C, but apparently only in terms of traffic concerns. He makes no attempt to address the rest of Plan C presented by the design team.

I have attended all the Main Plaza redevelopment meetings, with the exception of one, when I had a very bad cold. From the get-go, I have been an ardent supporter of giving the plaza redevelopment plan the acreage it deserves so that San Antonio may provide a world-class environment within this space to its citizens and visitors alike. At the May 10 meeting, I believe I was the only one to address the aesthetics of the three design plans for the space as presented to the public. I am wholly in favor of Plan B, *Los Jardines*.

Plan A, *Cathedral Square*, is laid out as an oval, an oval reminiscent of a high school track or a race track, such as Retama Park or Churchill Downs. Two acequias, similar to those at San Antonio Botanical Gardens or Mission Espada, slice through the ovals. Though historic, the acequias provide no strong visual focal point--nor is there one on the plaza in this plan. In Plan A, interactive fountains would be located in front of the cathedral--small jets of water that I believe are faddish and will not stand the test of time. Plan A offers the least shade cover, the most stone paving, and terraced slopes along the Soledad side of the Plaza, reminiscent of the Arneson River Theater. This plan might be the most ideal for a performance space, art show, or large public gathering, but the heat reflected up from the paving in the summer would be brutal. The design repeats unimaginatively other design elements and historical features around town, but doesn't unify them cohesively into an attractive whole.

Plan C, *Zocalo Verde*, permits both Commerce and Soledad to remain open, but the design for the grounds itself is too contemporary. There is a water feature that diagonally cuts through plaza space, and empties into a large square pool, that sits at a skewed angle in front of San Fernando Cathedral. There is a patch of lawn in the center with a few trees on the perimeter to provide shade. To adequately discuss the three landscape design plans, we must acknowledge that the predominant building on the square is the cathedral, followed by the historic red courthouse. Whatever is the focal point of the square should compliment the cathedral, not fight it, as the fountain for Plan C does. A fountain set an angle to the cathedral, rather than parallel to it, jars the senses. The fountain at a crazy angle is like a picture that hangs crookedly on a wall--the impulse is to step over and straighten it. San Antonio already has a monumental, red contemporary sculpture downtown that is not a good fit for the space and period buildings that enclose it. Let's not make the same design mistake twice by choosing a plan that is so at odds with the historic setting the plaza affords.

Plan B, *Los Jardines*, is the best fit for the space visually, compliments the massive and powerful surrounding structures, and is truly the most practical for the six months when temperatures are hot. It closes Dolorosa Street on the plaza's south side. It provides lanes that would curve around the Plaza and delay travelers for only a few minutes during their commutes. The curving lines of traffic would not only lower the noise level in the plaza, but the soft lines would be a beautiful compliment to the rectilinear lines chosen for the design of the plaza's center. This plan calls for a beautiful, elegant circular fountain as the plaza's focal point, directly in front of San Fernando Cathedral. My only suggestion for altering this plan would be to allow more space for foot traffic on the fountain's east side. With a fountain this stunning in front of the cathedral, local residents and tourists will want their Kodak moments. The areas north and south of the fountain would be filled with stately shade trees and colorful gardens, intersected by footpaths and dotted with comfortable benches. Very importantly, the periphery of the plaza would be graced by lovely shade trees, complimented by outdoor dining, and perhaps several kiosks.

My undergraduate degree is in fine arts. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted is on the family tree. My distant great-grandfather is the Spaniard Ferdinand III, whose name is embodied in the church the Canary Islanders chose for their place of worship when they first settled San Antonio. My hope is that the city will seize the opportunity before it and create a stunning visual space for historic Main Plaza that will both attract and delight residents and visitors for centuries to come.

Linda Loomis
9514 Antoine Forest Dr.
San Antonio, Texas
210/682-0480

(Plantagenet Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families, Douglas Richardson, Kimball G. Everingham, ed., Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md., 2004. Assistance provided by Robert Sewell, genealogist, of Canada, late December, 2004.)

Fernando III of Castile-Leon/Juana de Dammartin, Countess of Ponthieu, Montreuil, and Aumale (p. 192)
Edward I of England/Eleanor of Castile-Leon (p. 16)
Edward II of England/Isabella of France (p. 21)
Edward III of England/Phillipe of Hainault (p. 23)
John of Gaunt, Duke of Aquitaine/Katherine de Roet (p. 28)
Joan Beaufort/Robert Ferrers (p. 77)
Elizabeth Ferrers/John Greystoke (p. 135)
Eleanor Greystoke/Ralph Eure (p. 363)

[Eure line, pp. 295-8](#)

William Eure/Margaret Constable
Ralph Eure/Muriel Hastings
William Eure/Elizabeth Willoughby
Ralph Eure/Margery Bowes
Anne Eure/Lancelot Mansfield
John Mansfield/ m. 2nd Elizabeth ?
Elizabeth Mansfield/Rev. John Wilson--first pastor of First Church of Boston, 1630 ([p. 2 below](#))

(The Rawson Family: A Revised Memoir of Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, from 1650 to 1686; with Genealogical Notices of His Descendants, Including Nine Generations, by E.B. Crane, Worcester, Published by the Family, 1875. Book within the Connecticut Historical Society; assistance provided by staff genealogist Judith Ellen Johnson, May 2004.)

Rev. John Wilson Jr./Sarah Hooker-youngest daughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker (John Langdon Sibley's Harvard Graduates, Vol. I, 1642-1658, Cambridge, Charles William Sever, University Bookstore, 1873, p. 66. assistance provided by Barbara S. Meloni, Harvard Reference Archivist, November 2004.)

Susanna Wilson/Rev. Grindal Rawson-father, Edmund Rawson, second secretary of the colony of Massachusetts (p. 7)
Edmund Rawson/Elizabeth Howard--granddaughter of Experience Mitchell, settled Plymouth in 1623 (p. 17)
Nathan Rawson/Mary Chase (p. 36)
Edward Rawson/Lucy Jones (p. 37)
Hannah J. Rawson/Benona B. Rogers (p. 72)

The Loomis Family in America (originally published in 1875 by Elias Loomis, L.L.D.; revised in 1908 by Elisha Loomis, Ph.D.; reprinted in 1981 by John E. Loomis. Available from the Loomis Chaffee School bookstore, purchased by me in the spring, 2003.)

(p. 370)
Emeline C. Rogers/Thomas Benton Loomis
Benton Benoni Loomis/Jenny Freiwald
([personal knowledge](#))
Merwin Benton Loomis/Lillian Swanson
Linda Loomis/Bill Barton

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: LALoomis@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 8:16 AM
To: Mayor Hardberger
Cc: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: R. Flores' District 1 mtg: re: Main Plaza

I am a blogger and I wrote the following after the District 1 council meeting on Monday night.

I've finished a lot of books that I hated, but I ended liking a lot more about two thirds of the way through.

My goodness, your comment about books could have described last night's District 1 meeting about the plans for redeveloping San Antonio's Main Plaza. City bungling, crowd control/ mismanagement, information mismanagement, poor presentation graphics, city officials who talk with obfuscating disclarity--the Express-News reporter Laura Jesse left halfway through because up to that point the city hadn't provided any new information since last Wednesday's meeting on the same subject...and the last one-third of the meeting turned out to be pretty good--the owner of Mi Tierra restaurant spoke [about how closing Produce Row in the 70s helped both his business and Market Square], the priest from San Fernando Cathedral spoke [about how many thousands use Main Plaza for public events], the environmental space planner spoke [about how San Antonio is underserved with parks], and I, too, spoke [about the need for vision for San Antonio and the importance of better developing destination toruism] (although Councilman Roger Flores tried his darndest to shut me up).

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: LALoomis@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 9:12 AM
To: Mayor Hardberger
Cc: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Ideas: Main Plaza Redevelopment Prohect

I was quoted in this morning's San Antonio Express-News regarding last night's meeting downtown about the Main Plaza Redevelopmetn Project. I have expanded my comments following the article, more in line with what I verbalized to reporter Laura Jesse (and yes, I realize that she is limited by the column inch and has to include the comments of many who attended).

Main Plaza ideas floated
Web Posted: 03/01/2006 12:00 AM CST
Laura E. Jesse
Express-News Staff Writer

The first of two public meetings by the city on the redevelopment of Main Plaza on Tuesday showed that while potential street closures are of great concern, residents have myriad comments about the design, safety and uses of the plaza.

The meeting also offered the first public look at simulations that show the current traffic flows with four streets open and then traffic and pedestrian movements with two and three street closures.

The conceptual plan for the redevelopment, which Mayor Phil Hardberger said was meant to be a starting point and not the actual plan, calls for Commerce, Market, Main and Soledad streets to be closed, expanding the plaza from its current size of less than 1 acre to a green space of a little more than 3 acres from the River Walk to San Fernando Cathedral.

Closing only Main and Soledad streets would have the least impact on traffic, while closing all four would have the most, said Heidi Ross of WHM, who is creating the traffic models for the central business district.

With four street closures, the average morning travel time would increase by two minutes and the average afternoon trip would increase by 30 seconds, Ross said.

The \$10 million redevelopment would not only showcase the "birthplace" of the city, but it would provide an opportunity to fix flooding problems at the courthouse, upgrade the utilities in the plaza and surrounding area, and bring the plaza into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, said Larry Clark of Wells Bender Clark Design, the firm hired by the city to draw up a plan and create construction documents for the plaza.

Traffic is not the only issue.

Residents are also concerned about having public restrooms and the use of those restrooms by the homeless, keeping the park safe and well-maintained, creating a less formal landscape design and including an educational component to inform visitors of the city's history.

"It's where we need to go," resident Linda Loomis said, but she didn't feel she came away from the meeting with enough information. "From what I heard, the planning is still very fluid."

Downtown Alliance President Ben Brewer said the traffic simulations did not ease any concerns.

"When I look at the model, it doesn't look anything like what's really out there," he said. "You go out on Commerce Street any time of day and you will see at least one VIA bus. But on the simulation I occasionally saw a bus go through the intersection."

San Fernando parishioner Elizabeth Navarro said she imagines her ancestor José Maria Salinas, who served as mayor, would appreciate the plan.

"What I see I think is very well-organized and most important it is creative," Navarro said. "I'm a romantic, so I like to think of my great-great-great-grandfather looking down and saying, 'My God, you've come a long way.'"

My comments to the reporter got reduced to monosyllabic babbling. Have no doubt that San Antonio is a muy, muy Catholic city. Do we want a formal design for this plaza, resplendent with Spanish tile and romantic fountains that will complement the cathedral and make us look like a city deep into old Mexico? How do we integrate into the redesign of the Plaza's open space the historic red-rock city hall structure at the square's south end? Or do we want a far less formal landscape design plan for the acreage/plot, more akin to the landscape design precepts of distant relative Frederick Law Olmsted? (The Anglo history of the city was pretty much eliminated in the handout distributed to meeting-goers last night, I noted.)

Of course, we have to give up the traffic on all four surrounding streets. That's a no-brainer, in order for there to be enough dirt and space to do something worthy, something eye-pleasing, and perhaps visually stunning. What's an extra two minutes added to the average person's commute if this design plan is implemented? Restrooms--if this is to truly be a public space, for the public, to be enjoyed by the public--are also a no-brainer.

Of course, not mentioned was my moment of sheer conceptual and historical brilliance. Let's move the statue of Moses Austin, two blocks away, now out-of-sight and obscure behind City Hall offices and tree canopy, into the reconfigured design for the Plaza, central to the founding of San Antonio.

Of course, I have a vested interest in the Moses-statue-move, since I share the Phelps bloodline with Moses and Stephen Austin and Mary Austin Holley and John Forbes Kerry. The Austins hailed from Suffield, Conn., as did Sylvester Graham, inventor of the graham cracker. If Moses gets moved into the Plaza, then at Christmas time, the city can pass out chocolate-covered graham crackers and steaming hot chocolate to the poor and homeless.

San Antonio can then bill itself as "La Ciudad con Corazon." "The City with Heart." We need not only more compassion here in the city erected along the banks of the San Antonio River, with an old Spanish mission and a Canary Island cathedral as its wellstones, but a new marketing slogan for Alamo City as well.

The city with heart. It has a nice ring. Something the cathedral bells could proclaim.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Kinnison and Associates [ckinnison@kinnison-architects.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 5:05 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: COMMENTS

MY VOTE IS TO CLOSE ALL OF THE STREETS AROUND THE MAIN PLAZA. MAKE SAN ANTONIO ACCESSIBLE USING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION!

THANK YOU,

P. CHANCE KINNISON
RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
BULGARIA 2002-2004

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Kim Gilbert [gilbertaia@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 6:19 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: comments

Having reviewed the proposals, here are my comments on the project.

Options A & C seem to be the most viable. While diverting all traffic around the courthouse in Option B would extend the park and be more desirable for the courthouse entrance, I believe it would just increase headaches for all pedestrians and vehicles.

The case studies are appealing but one has to always consider cultural differences. Portland has been very aggressive in its implementation of convenient public transit and until we can support that idea we are not going to have a larger volume of people strolling through downtown than what we already have from tourists and current bus users. Car dependent residents of the city typically do not go downtown to hang out. They have an event or destination they are going to and they usually have an idea about where to park and they are not as familiar with parking options in that part of downtown. AS much as I love downtown San Antonio I am not going to drive downtown, pay \$7-10 for event parking (and there is always an "event") to have a latte in front of the Cathedral. I might do it for a \$1.50 light rail trip though.
(I know that you know this!)

The Mexico case studies would also have to be viewed similarly. More pedestrian traffic, but for different reasons.

It is important to avoid large, unbroken expanses of paved areas. While convenient for large gatherings (unlikely in this situation given the parking and transportation issues) they tend to be pretty dead areas in my experience. Alternatively, lots of shade, seating and an interactive water feature would be more desirable and make the area more of a destination for people who already use the area.

In summary, I fully support a more user friendly upgrade of what could eventually be a really outstanding public space but we must understand our limitations and not overreach for what is realistically possible in this space.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gilbert, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Keith Kolodziej [keithkolodziej@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 2:57 PM
To: Main Plaza
Cc: dannyd05@netzero.net
Subject: comments on Main Plaza

Dear San Antonio,

The Main Plaza Redevelopment project has the distinctive characteristics of a legacy project. Remember the Alamo Dome?

Improve drainage? Pedestrian access? Handicapped Accessibility? Really!?!

That sounds like someone is grasping for reasons in order to have a long impressive list of items that are being "addressed" in order to justify a self-proclaimed "brilliant" solution. Certainly these are great goals but is the medicine worse than the symptoms?

As far as the historic nature goes, history grows in time and is constantly changing. Ask any history professor. The historical nature of this plaza IS a destination. However, these schemes are nothing short of creating a nexus of congestion for vehicular traffic and ultimately - chaos.

Architects are supposed to bring chaos to order. It appears that we are driving this into the opposite direction in order to force a round peg into a square hole. This hit-to-fit, patch-to-match mentality desperately needs to surrender to some higher level of thought before we get too trigger happy.

After all is said and done, if or when this project goes on, I would like to know - where is our public transportation system? It is embarrassing to tell people that the transportation system for one of the world's largest cities is Via and, oh yeah, your personal vehicle. Voters must carry some of the blame, but only to a certain point. Our local government is in place to lead this community and guide its development into a positive direction in stead of taking the easy road to meet public approval and re-election.

I apologize for sounding so abrasive, but I have strong objection to this project. The Alamo Dome is built and yet we have no NFL football team. The Via bus system is an overused band-aid to hide our transportation problems. And, though a delightful thought, this Main Plaza Redevelopment project is not thought out well enough for me to support current local government leadership in the future if we are forced to continue down this path.

Sincerely,

Keith J. Kolodziej, Assoc. AIA

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Julius Gribou [Julius.Gribou@utsa.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 4:45 PM
To: Main Plaza
Cc: Council District 1; Victoria Salazar
Subject: MAIN PLAZA

I have listened to a number of presentations about this project, read many articles and letters, and now, I am seeing three proposal merged into one.

I continue to have concerns. It started out with a flawed process. Savannah did it right when they converted a square.

They took their time and had a full community participation in the initial concept.

Also, they looked at the square in the larger context of the community.

Furthermore, many of the argument about the main plaza use examples from other places in the world that are not applicable to this setting.

One can't "transplant" urban spaces that have evolved over many years.

It's also unfortunate, that because of our haste, the main focus was the traffic pattern. Even though it's a very critical issue, it should have

been one of many important issues. With the traffic being most the discussed, the other aspects of the design were not fully addressed.

If we had moved this fast with all of our San Antonio projects, much of the historic fabric would have been greatly reduced.

Having said all of this, my current concerns are as follows:

- This appears to be a "San Fernando Cathedral Square" with the "Main Plaza Park".

I am a "tree hugging" architect, but the scale of the actual plaza is wrong.

The entire focus is on the Cathedral, with the River Walk, the Courthouse, and the City Building being totally secondary and isolated.

- If we want to enhance the East-West flow, the North-South lines of trees need to be minimized.

- Planting of the trees as a replacement for the former streets is not necessary.

Even the permanent closing of Main and Soledad is not necessary.

It's amazing what paving patterns and bollards can achieve.

I can go on, but I could provide a lot more wisdom with a piece of sketch paper and a pen or a pencil. We have an amazing wealth of knowledge in our design community and much of it would have been beneficial months ago.

Myself, I have visited the majority of urban spaces in Europe and North America.

I have watched how they are used, and how they work as "people" spaces.

I am not sure that the last solution is going to achieve the most desirable results.

I am leaving for three weeks and will see a number of significant urban spaces.

If our Main Plaza is not a "done deal" when I return, I would be happy to engage in a constructive dialogue.

Please, consider these comments as coming from a resident of San Antonio who also works Downtown.

Thank you for considering my input.

Julius M. Gribou, AIA, IIDA

Dean

College of Architecture

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Josie Garrison [jgarrison@catto.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 4:07 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza development

It appears that we are closing more and more streets in the downtown area for "re-development" and this makes driving around the downtown area more and more challenging. I don't see why streets have to be permanently closed for those functions that don't occur everyday. Is it more cost effective to permanently close a street than to block it off as needed? Another concern is downtown parking, I am not sure how many parking meter there are on the streets being considered for closure, but there would be that number less once the streets are closed. What kinds of events are being planned that would necessitate permanent street closures? As it is now, many San Antonio and surround area residents shy away from driving downtown.

I am all for "re-developing" the downtown area and attracting tourism, but in my opinion, closing streets in this area does not sound like a very smart move for already congested streets in downtown San Antonio.

Sincerely,

-

Josie Garrison
Catto & Catto LLP
San Antonio, Texas
Tel: (210) 222-2161, ext. 285
Fax: (210) 222-1618
www.catto.com

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jose Gomez [j.gomez@pgnarchitects.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main PLaza Redevelopment

What a huge mistake! The idea that closing off streets to stimulate pedestrian flow and activity in a park has tried and failed time and time again. Battle Creek, Michigan and most recently Raleigh, North Carolina realized the error of this thinking and have opened up the once closed off streets in their downtowns because if anything, closing off the streets killed off activity and did not stimulate pedestrian traffic.

As a current resident of Washington D.C., (I am a San Antonio native) I have noticed that what does encourage activity in city parks or squares or circles, as is the case here, is a captive population. People who not only work around these public spaces but also live approximately close by. Downtown San Antonio is not dense enough with residents to require, grocery stores, dry cleaners, and other service related businesses. It seems this plan is geared for the tourist and not for permanent residents. If the idea is that activities in the plaza would benefit from closing off streets then maybe a lesson from Houston and Franklin Square can be learned, that when there is an event like the Thursday Night Concert Series, the streets around the square are closed off just for that evening.

The 'build it and they will come' approach to this project will do more damage to downtown and Main Plaza than good.

Jose Luis Gomez, Project Manager

PGN Architects

1817 M Street, NW

Washington, DC 20036

ph-202.822.5995 ext25

fax-202.822.0908

j.gomez@pgnarchitects.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jorge DeLaGarza [jorge.delagarza@mdnarchitects.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 9:19 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

Options 3 and 4 are acceptable with perhaps paving as per Alamo Plaza and temporary bollards on weekends for temporary closures. Closing and narrowing of streets per Tri-party Houston street project is a bad idea. Vancouver did the very same thing years before we tried and it killed the main street urban experience and created a "ghost town". Like it or not from the Plazas of Paris to Guadalajara and Rome, automobile traffic generates activity generates urban space. Let's find a way to quiet traffic. We don't need to further destroy the urban fabric of downtown and turn it into a San Pedro Park as nice, serene and relaxing as it is .

Jorge de la Garza, AIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jonathan Smith [jsmith@lakeflato.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 4:09 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Mainplaza

Option C "zocalo verde" is the best option of the three; however in it Soladad should be closed. It does not make sense to have folks coming out of the riverwalk in the middle of a busy street and expect them to cross. I like the fact it is more informal feeling than the other two schemes. Also it seems that more areas directly in front of the courthouse should be hardscape as well.

Option A creates a very odd space directly in front of the courthouse and the square is too unprogrammed as well as having strange streets. Option B is too formal and does not have enough hardscape for an urban square. However none of these options are as strong and compelling as I would like to see for the main square of the city.

thanks for allowing input,

Jonathan Smith

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311 THIRD STREET, SUITE 200
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205
[p] 210.227.3335 [f] 210.224.9515

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: jon@jonthompson.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 10:43 PM
To: jon@jonthompson.org
Subject: Friends of Main Plaza

Attachments: Win-Win Plaza Design.pdf



Win-Win Plaza
Design.pdf (165 ...

It was a pleasure meeting those of you who attended today's Public Meeting for the latest version of the road closing plan for Main Plaza. It was a good turnout, in spite of Mayor Hardberger's early departure. Every single speaker spoke out against ANY road closings. So much for the "vocal minority." At the same time, most speakers were in favor of a revitalization of Main Plaza -- but NOT one that limits access.

Attached is an Adobe Acrobat version of the Main Plaza Win-Win alternative presented today at the public hearing by the newly formed Friends of Main Plaza. FOMP is in favor of revitalizing Main Plaza but is opposed to any road closings. Closing only two roads is NOT a compromise. If you cannot open the graphic, let us know. It was shown simply as evidence that a design is possible that allows roads to be opened or closed, as needed, without permanently closing any of them. In its spaciousness, this plaza design is more true to the historical Main Plaza. It is similar to the wide open public spaces such as the Zocalo, in Mexico City, and the Plaza Mayor, in Salamanca, Spain. (Personally, I am an advocate for a powerful space, as befits a powerful city, rather than one littered with urban knick-knacks.

JT)

Let us know as you have questions and comments. The next Public Meeting is June 5, for District 1, then it goes for the "done deal" at the City Council B session on June 7 for the official rubber stamping. We are hoping that Councilman Roger Flores is not a big supporter of the Mayor's plan, due to the difficulty these road closings will have for his district. We need to communicate with him and with County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, who has voiced strong concern about the road closings.

Feel free to forward this graphic to others but remember, it is simply meant to initiate discussion as to the possibility of a win-win solution for Main Plaza. Some of you who were not at the public hearing are receiving this email because you have expressed interest in the plaza plans or are with the press. If you want to be taken off this email list, please email a reply to us with the Subject Line: Take me off.

For official information about the plaza development, visit:
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/>

Jon Thompson
FOMP

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: John Williams [John@pflugerassociates.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 10:30 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Questionnaire

I support the permanent closure of Main Street and Soledad Street.

I would also support permanent closure of Dolorosa if major east bound traffic on Buena Vista can be diverted to Durango.

John Williams, AIA

Pfluger Associates, L.P.

1917 N. New Braunfels Ave., Suite 201

San Antonio, Texas 78208

tel 210/227-2724 | fax 210/227-2730

john@pflugerassociates.com

www.pflugerassociates.com

austin . san antonio . houston

http://www.pflugerassociates.com/screen_logo_email.jpg

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: John Kell [kell@kellmunoz.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 11:02 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: main plaza redevelopment

I reviewed the plans of the three proposals for Main Plaza redevelopment. All three are terrific, but I like scheme C the best because of the way it includes the courthouse in the plaza and the very exciting connection to the river.....the traffic on dolorosa is also probably more practical.

John Kell, FAIA

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: John Fritscher [jfrit001@neisd.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 9:24 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Good Idea

I grew up in Germany during my teenage years. There were plazas in every city I visited and the shops thrived. Patrons felt safer roaming from store to store, were more relaxed and spent time sitting on benches under the canopy trees. Designed right and with the right stores it can be a real asset to our tourism industry. It might even draw my dollars that way. As a self-proclaimed San Antonian I seldom go downtown because it's too much work as a parent protecting my children.
John F.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: John Covey [jcovey@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:43 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO

The closing of the downtown "squares" and bringing in "urban renewal" in the Midwest during the 60's and 70's destroyed the character, function and uniqueness of these quaint, quiet small towns. I lived in one of these towns growing up and the downtown area still has not recovered. I think renovations to the park areas and pedestrian traffic should be addressed, but do not close streets which hinders traffic and commerce.

Sincerely,

John R. Covey Architect

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jode9@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 3:17 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: (no subject)

hello

i think that the zocalo verde option (#3) is clearly the best of the three the cathedral is the focal point (as far as gatherings are concerned) in the plaza and this opens up the area in front of the doors for events and gatherings this option also preserves the lawn in front of the courthouse and impedes traffic the lease i urge you to go with plan 3

jordan maddox

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jimmy [salaniz@mail.utexas.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 11:24 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Plaza

Hello,

I think its about time that the City has decided to beautify Downtown San Antonio. The Cathedral is beautiful, but it needs help in the area directly in front of it. There is no reason to have a street in front of the doors.

Santiago

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jim Klein [jklein@axs4u.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 8:23 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: message for Mr Wendorf

Tom,

It has been many years since our professional path's crossed, and I hope they cross again soon. I just applied for your open Senior Engineer Position and look forward to being able to show you and your Assistant Director's how my skills may benefit the City.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jerry Pribyl [gpribyl@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 11:57 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: main plaza

Commerce and other main streets should remain open so that merchants can stay in business. If streets are closed or otherwise restricted, traffic will be slowed, and people will have another reason to avoid the area that the plaza improvement project is supposed to be attracting them.

Thank you.

Jerry Pribyl
New Braunfels

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jerry Pribyl [gpribyl@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 11:55 PM
To: Main Plaza

Primary streets such as Commerce should remain open so that merchants that depend on them for business don't suffer. Additionally, closing them or restricting hours that they can be used causes traffic slowdowns.... another reason people wouldn't be interested in driving to the area to use it.

Thanks.
Jerry Pribyl
New Braunfels, Tx

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Jennifer Yard [jennifer@alamoarchitects.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:40 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: option 3

Attachments: image001.jpg

Jennifer Yard

Alamo Architects

108 King William

San Antonio, Texas 78204

(210) 227-2612

(210) 227-9457 fax

jennifer@alamoarchitects.com

www.alamoarchitects.com



image001.jpg (4
KB)

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: James Monroe [jkm9@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 8:12 PM
To: Main Plaza

Leave the streets as they are now. Just upgrade the Plaza itself. Make it simple and don't mess up what we have like a lot of other city's have done.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: James L. Hayne Jr. [jhaynejr@catto.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:43 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main plaza

First of all, I do not support the idea of remodeling Main Plaza as I believe there are other more important projects.

Having said that, if the project moves forward I support a plan that leaves all streets open to traffic but with the ability to close Soledad and Main only for special events and never permanently. I also support the narrowing of Soledad & Main.

Thank you.

-

James L. Hayne Jr.
Catto & Catto LLP
Insurance, Risk Management & Employee Benefits
San Antonio, Texas
Tel: (210) 222-2161 ext. 220
Fax: (210) 222-1618
jhaynejr@catto.com
www.catto.com

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: James Kaston [kastonjam@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:41 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: mainplaza

For improvement to Main Plaza why does no one mention the eyesore Daughters of St. Paul Bookstore. Are the Church and City all afraid of them? A vast improvement in itself would be the demolishing of that building.

kastonjam@earthlink.net

EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Imogen Gantos [IGantos@catto.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:54 PM
To: Main Plaza

Do we just need something to spend our money on? Leave it alone. Downtown traffic is bad enough as it is. If you close any of those streets it makes getting to the courthouse or justice center too difficult.

Imogen Gantos
Catto & Catto LLP
San Antonio, Texas
Tel: (210) 222-2161 ext. 246
Fax: (210) 222-1618
www.catto.com

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: hienrgy2@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 7:44 AM
To: Main Plaza
Cc: Korte@satx.rr.com; bebrewer@downtownsa.org
Subject: Main Plaza Project

As a new resident to San Antonio (Hurricane Katrina), I have greatly enjoyed the downtown area and Riverwalk of your wonderful city.

The proposed changes for Main Plaza, in my opinion, would severely clog traffic in the area and cause great confusion to visitors.

It is difficult enough navigating the one way streets downtown as they are. Many a time I've had to stop short in my lane and let a vehicle turn in front of me because they are in the wrong lane to turn but have finally reached a one-way that takes them in the direction they want to go. Closing and narrowing more streets will only make for more possible accidents.

If you are looking to make some improvements, spend the money on fixing pot holes and the bad patches on Roosevelt/St. Mary's in the King William district coming to town from the South- OUCH!

And P.S.- how about synchronizing the stop lights?? Makes for a "Fiesta Texas" ride downtown with all the stopping and starting!!!

Lisa Arcoleo

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Hernandez, Jaime [jhernandez@pbkarchitects.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2006 11:05 AM
To: Main Plaza

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

I think that the connection between the river and the main plaza to the cathedral is of important significance. It is all part of the procession that leads into the cathedral. The procession doesn't start when you enter the plaza it starts wherever you step foot onto the Riverwalk or get on the river barge. The river becomes part of the procession that will eventually lead you into San Fernando Cathedral. If you look at the "great" cathedrals of the world, they all have a grand plaza that greets the pedestrians before one enters the interior space. The river essentially greets the pedestrian before the pedestrian steps foot onto the plaza. I also feel that the streets surrounding the plaza need to be brought to the level of the plaza using the same material. This will allow for the boundary of the plaza to flood beyond the curb and onto the street front of the surrounding buildings.



image001.gif (2 KB)



image002.jpg (6 KB)

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: GWS [GWSSS@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 10:18 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: 10 million waste

This is one of the most ridiculous projects the city has ever undertaken.

10 million dollars wastedand we have horrible street conditions everywhere, let alone the talk of closing a street.

We need more streets opened ! Where has common sense gone ?

Hardberger is an imbecile.

Gary W Scott
12911 Blanche Coker
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210-490-0919

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gutierrez, Javier [jgutierrez@coxsmith.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 9:45 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Beautiful

I think it looks great. We already have the best downtown in Texas, and this improves on the beauty of our City's Spanish and Mexican heritage.

J. Javier Gutierrez
Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated
112 E. Pecan St., Suite 1800
San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: (210) 554-5439
Fax: (210) 226-8395

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gordon Alalmo [gordonborland@alamomusic.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:27 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Plaza

The plaza is fine the way it is. Every resource for downtown should be used toward parking. Parking meters should be removed. I walk downtown everyday at the noon hour and wonder about the empty buildings on Houston street. I think it would be a sin to spend this kind of money on the plaza. Who are the lawyers and contractors that will pocket the profit? Name them. Get them building parking facilities and get richer on productive improvements not fluff!

Gordon Borland

210 224-1010

gordonborland@alamomusic.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 10:47 AM
To: gakalkotkar@hotmail.com
Subject: FW: Friends of Main Plaza

Attachments: Win-WinPlazaDesign.pdf



Win-WinPlazaDesign.pdf (165 KB...

fyi

From: <jon@jonthompson.org>
Reply-To: <jon@jonthompson.org>
To: <jon@jonthompson.org>
Subject: *Friends of Main Plaza*
Date: Tue, 30 May 2006 22:42:50 -0500

>It was a pleasure meeting those of you who attended today's Public Meeting
>for the latest version of the road closing plan for Main Plaza. It was a
>good turnout, in spite of Mayor Hardberger's early departure. Every single
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>minority." At the same time, most speakers were in favor of a
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>

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>in Salamanca, Spain. (Personally, I am an advocate for a powerful space, as
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>JT)

>

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>

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>Plaza. Some of you who were not at the public hearing are receiving this
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>press. If you want to be taken off this email list, please email a reply to
>us with the Subject Line: Take me off.
>
>For official information about the plaza development, visit:
><http://www.sanantonio.gov/>
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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2006 2:00 PM
To: Main Plaza; mgreenberg@express-news.net; Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: FW: RE: Latest Main Plaza plan comments

Attachments: Thompson,MainPlazapaper.pdf



Thompson,MainPlaz
apaper.pdf (4...

All:

I am forwarding a well written, poignant paper on the state of affairs of the Main Plaza development written by Jon Thompson. I agree with him that the project is truly well - intentioned, just not appropriate in the context.

Gopi Akalkotkar

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 1:57 PM
To: Main Plaza; Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Latest Main Plaza plan comments

Attachments: plaza.pdf; Plaza.doc



plaza.pdf (1 MB)



Plaza.doc (31 KB)

Ms. Ramos:

It was disappointing to see the latest Main Plaza plan.

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/mainplaza/May17Proposal.asp>

Keeping Commerce and Dolorosa is a step in the right direction. Proposing a building in the North-east corner is also a good step. Yet, several things are problematic with the plan:

1. Main and Soledad must remain open - except for special occasions.
2. It gives too much prominence to the Cathedral and not enough to the other Civic buildings - the City Hall and the Courthouse.
3. The plaza needs to be a large gathering space - and not a series of secluded parks.
4. I have attached a word document with notes about my thoughts, as well as a sketch to illustrate some ideas (it is not a complete design - just some basic thoughts). The design should be a culmination of a meaningful public process.

Thanks.

Gopi Akalkotkar

Concerned downtown worker and architect.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 1:57 PM
To: Main Plaza; Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Latest Main Plaza plan comments

Attachments: plaza.pdf; Plaza.doc



plaza.pdf (1 MB)



Plaza.doc (31 KB)

Ms. Ramos:

It was disappointing to see the latest Main Plaza plan.

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/mainplaza/May17Proposal.asp>

Keeping Commerce and Dolorosa is a step in the right direction. Proposing a building in the North-east corner is also a good step. Yet, several things are problematic with the plan:

1. Main and Soledad must remain open - except for special occasions.
2. It gives too much prominence to the Cathedral and not enough to the other Civic buildings - the City Hall and the Courthouse.
3. The plaza needs to be a large gathering space - and not a series of secluded parks.
4. I have attached a word document with notes about my thoughts, as well as a sketch to illustrate some ideas (it is not a complete design - just some basic thoughts). The design should be a culmination of a meaningful public process.

Thanks.

Gopi Akalkotkar

Concerned downtown worker and architect.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 2:39 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Cc: Roger Flores; bebrewer@downtownsa.org; kmadden@pps.org; mgreenberg@express-news.net
Subject: Main Plaza comments
Attachments: Plaza.doc; plaza.pdf



Plaza.doc (31 KB)



plaza.pdf (2 MB)

Ms. Ramos:

Attached is a sketch that is quite self-explanatory regarding my views about the Main Plaza project. I have also attached my comments that I had mailed earlier.

I do not claim that this drawing is a great final design - it is only a conceptual tool to get my ideas across. The design process of a plaza of such Civic importance should remain a very open public endeavor.

Sincerely:

Gopinath Akalkotkar

Architect and a concerned downtown worker.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 12:29 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: RE: Main plaza comments

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make this meeting, but I am hoping that the people in charge will read these comments.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss these thoughts, please contact me.

Thanks

Gopi Akalkotkar

From: "Monica Ramos (Pub works)" <MRamos@sanantonio.gov>
To: "Gopinath Akalkotkar" <gakalkotkar@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Main plaza comments
Date: Tue, 9 May 2006 08:24:27 -0500

Thank you for your comments. Please know that we take all comments and suggestions very seriously.

I hope you will join us tomorrow for the next public meeting.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [mailto:gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2006 8:24 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main plaza comments

Ms Ramos:

I am a concerned architect and a downtown worker. Please review my take on this important project.

Please reply if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Gopi Akalkotkar

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Gopinath Akalkotkar [gakalkotkar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2006 8:24 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main plaza comments

Attachments: Plaza.doc



Plaza.doc (34 KB)

Ms Ramos:

I am a concerned architect and a downtown worker. Please review my take on this important project.

Please reply if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Gopi Akalkotkar

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Fred Andrew Simpson [asimpson@myarchimedia.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 1:37 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Three schemes on the web

Scheme A draws vehicular traffic too closely to the front door of the courthouse, presenting precarious pedestrian predicaments.

Scheme B presents interesting possibilities for events on the courthouse steps; i.e. weddings and rallies for instance. However, the traffic hiccup is likely more than frequent downtowners would like to bear.

Scheme C creates a wonderful pedestrian plaza with continuity to San Fernando and the City Council, while allowing for practically little disruption in vehicle traffic. Of the three, it appears that "C" is the best.

Andy Simpson, AIA

Architect Fred Andrew Simpson, AIA
Principal

Archimedia

To make lasting things that delight and inspire

www.myarchimedia.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Francisco Gonzalez [gonzalez@gnbarch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 11:26 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: MAIN PLAZA

I like the formality of option B "LOS JARDINES" and I think Soledad should still connect to Market similar to Option C maybe with a deeper bend towards the Court House to slow traffic down and the street floor material should also change to flow with materials used in the main plaza design. This will also give you the option of closing this section of the street for special events.

FRANCISCO GONZALEZ, AIA
GONZALEZ NEWELL BENDER, INC.
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS
11550 IH 10 WEST, SUITE 350
San Antonio, Texas 78230
(210)692 0331 EXT. 106
(210)692 3579 FAX

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Flo Kehoe [kehoefl@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 11:11 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza Developement

I have reviewed the main plaza info you have on the website, and I believe this is a **project that should definitely be abandonded!!!!!!!!!!!!** There is already a park in the middle of the area now, and it is not used that much anyway. Who is going to go downtown just to go this park area, especailly when traffic is messed up the way it will be if the project goes forward.

San Antonio has many other needs that should be corrected and taken care of before taking on a project like this.

We have streets that are in need of repairs along with many other municiple projects.

We are a very nice city, but we certainly don't have money to waste on frivolous projects like a downtown park.

We already have the riverwalk for tourists.

Use our money wisely, not on projects that will no benefit the people who pay the taxes.

Flora Kehoe
3138 Wroxton Rd.
SAT 78217
<http://us.i1.yimg.com/us.yimg.com/i/mesg/tsmileys2/40.gif>

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Fay Hendrix [fay210@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2006 9:12 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Renovation

It seems like to me that the city has a "build it and they will come" mentality about this park. It is difficult to know what the truth is. Sometimes we are told that the trees have a disease and must be cut down. Then we hear the trees will stay.

I notice that all of the proposals will close the street in front of the Cathedral and Soledad. I believe that will directly impact on the number of people who attend the 6:15 daily mass. Many people park at the meters around the park. Many people who park and come in church to pray for 10 minutes before going to work will no longer be able to stop, park and run into the cathedral because it will take them an extra 10 minutes to park and walk to the church.

I am disappointed that the city pays so little attention to the people who have lived downtown for many years. I am also disappointed that the city refers to the cathedral as the spiritual center of the city and it seems to just be for show. Many other cathedrals don't have plazas or even the space on both sides of the cathedral that San Fernando enjoys. The cathedral in Corpus Christi for example.

The money that is being proposed for this renovation could be used in ways that actually benefit the people of the city. I do not see how spending all that money on renovating the plaza will benefit me (as a tax paying citizen of San Antonio). It will not bring more tourists to the city. It may not even bring more tourists to that part of the city. As a citizen of San Antonio, renovating the plaza will not in any way make me want to come to that park. But, spending that same money on sides for school children to use when they walk to and from school could have a benefit for me. Currently, some of them walk in my yard rather than walk in the street. The sidewalk across the street from me is not usable. Spending that money to help others would also be a Christian thing to do since we are talking about what is a spiritual center.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Evans, Melissa L. [Melissa.Evans@c-b.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 9:42 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Option A - Cathedral Square

Thank you,

Melissa Evans, Associate IIDA | Interior Design | [Carter::Burgess](#)

911 Central Parkway North, Suite 425 | San Antonio, TX | 78232 | 210.494.0088

melissa.evans@c-b.com | www.c-b.com

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: edhoffer@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 8:58 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: No go

To be honest, I think it's a waste of time and money. Something that just big enough for lawyers and affluent to use, and create more hassles for others, especially traffic concerns.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Doug McMurry [McMurry@sanantonioagc.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 3:49 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Los Jardines

Los Jardines looks good!

*Doug McMurry
The San Antonio Chapter of AGC
(210) 349-4921*

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Doug Lipscomb [lipscomb@marmonmok.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 9:42 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Image

Thank you very much.

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.
Architect

Marmon Mok
One Riverwalk Place
700 N. St. Mary's Suite 1600
San Antonio TX 78205
T 210.223.9492
F 210.223.2582
lipscomb@marmonmok.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Ramos (Pub works) [mailto:MRamos@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 9:22 AM
To: Doug Lipscomb
Subject: RE: Main Plaza Image

Attached is the concept graphic that was shown at the first public meeting. This will most likely change though and is not final.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: Doug Lipscomb [mailto:lipscomb@MarmonMok.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 9:15 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: FW: Main Plaza Image
Ms. Ramos:

Is it going to be possible to get an image of the Main Plaza Concept Plan

Thank you

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.
Architect

Marmon Mok
One Riverwalk Place
700 N. St. Mary's Suite 1600
San Antonio TX 78205
T 210.223.9492
F 210.223.2582

lipscomb@marmonmok.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Lipscomb

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 5:15 PM

To: 'mramos@sanantonio.gov'

Subject: Main Plaza Image

Monica:

If you could please send me a 300 dpi image of the Main Plaza Concept Plan for publication in Texas Architect.

Thank you

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Doug Lipscomb [lipscomb@MarmonMok.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 9:15 AM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: FW: Main Plaza Image

Ms. Ramos:

Is it going to be possible to get an image of the Main Plaza Concept Plan

Thank you

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.
Architect

Marmon Mok
One Riverwalk Place
700 N. St. Mary's Suite 1600
San Antonio TX 78205
T 210.223.9492
F 210.223.2582
lipscomb@marmonmok.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Lipscomb
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 5:15 PM
To: 'mramos@sanantonio.gov'
Subject: Main Plaza Image

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Thank you

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Doug Lipscomb [lipscomb@MarmonMok.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 5:15 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza Image

Monica:

If you could please send me a 300 dpi image of the Main Plaza Concept Plan for publication in Texas Architect.

Thank you

J. Douglas Lipscomb, A.I.A.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Donna Kay McKinney [dkmck@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 4:39 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Re-design

I work downtown and still think it would be a beautiful idea to close all 4 streets as it appears on the website conceptual design.

Donna Kay McKinney

12146 Lemon Blossom

SAT 78247

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Dirk Davidek [dirk@adventureclubsa.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:28 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

Close all 4 streets and go with the full plan. People can change their driving routes, they'll get used to it. Dirk Davidek

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Dave Thomas [dthomas@dcgappraisers.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 12:09 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: I Want to Stay Informed/Involved

Attachments: image001.gif



image001.gif (1 KB)

David Thomas / Associate

Dugger, Canaday, Grafe, Inc.

Real Estate Consultants & Appraisers

111 Soledad, Ste. 800

San Antonio, Texas 78205

T 210.227.6229 / F 210.227.8520

DThomas@DCGappraisers.net / DCGappraisers.net

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Conor Samuels [csamuels@lakeflato.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 2:47 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: opinion

Hello,

I like option 2 best. I like the idea of creating an axis with the cathedral and also the separation of the large space into smaller spaces.

However, the images on the website were a bit too small to read easily.

- Conor Samuels

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Cissy Thorpe [Cissy.Thorpe@utsa.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:17 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: When?

When will the three plans be posted?

Cissy Thorpe
Dept of Psychology
HSS 4.04.56
EXT: 4372 FAX: 5728

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Cheever, Christopher [CHCheever@broadwaybank.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 5:29 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Against Plan A, B, and C-----Leave it!

I think Options A, B, and C are all wrong headed. The flow of the city is good with the way things are and there is no reason to be spending this kind of money on such a minimally beneficial public works project. I guess it's a politician's job to think of ways to blow public funds.

My opinion,

Chris Cheever

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Charlie Mata [cmata14@Satx.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2006 8:35 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza

If the plans include closing Buena Vista Street going into downtown, this is a huge mistake. Traffic will be undoubtedly backed up and citizens coming from the westside of town are going to take the hits. Also with the VIA modal Project that may at one time be built near the area, it will make things very hectic for Westside commuters.

In all, this project may be somewhat good for the tourist but really bad for our COSA citizens. Thank you.

Jason Mata - Prospect Hill NA, Chairperson
(210) 535-4422 (210) 257-8877

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Charlie Fulton [cfulton@hixonprop.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: March 9-10 design charrette

Monica-

We spoke earlier about next weeks Main Plaza design charrette and I asked you if downtown business owners are allowed to come listen in or participate. Please let me know as soon as you find out one way or the other. Thanks, Charlie.

Charles B. Fulton

Development Manager

Hixon Properties Incorporated

315 East Commerce Street, Suite 300

San Antonio, Texas 78205

(210) 225-3053

(210) 225-5910 fax

cfulton@hixonprop.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Charles Gates [cgates@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 10:03 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza.....

Sirs....

I have have resided in San Antonio since 1963 and have witnessed the changes in the character and design of downtown over the years.....

I think the street closure and subsequent plaza area developed at market square was a good decision.....the tri-party remodel a general disaster.....

My vote would be for closure of both Soledad and Main Streets adjacent to the Plaza....this would provide a continuous plaza / park from the river to the cathedral....

The resulting area from the river to the cathedral would be an immense improvement and investment to downtown

Sincerely,

Charles M. Gates
Architect, AIA
(210) 834-1457 phone
(210) 509-3127 faxcimile

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: CenturyV8@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 10:44 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza feedback

I feel this is a worthy project, and find it very good for the city. However, one thing that needs to be addressed, is, how funerals at San Fernando will be handled with the beauty and dignity with street in front of the church closed.

Thanks
Tony Cantu

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Casa S.A. Guadalajara
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 12:25 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Input

Why not build a covered underpass on Commerce street at the area of main plaza. From St marys to Flores sreet. With underground parking. JRF.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Campos, Edward [Edward.Campos@ci.austin.tx.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 9:04 AM
To: Main Plaza

Edward Campos

Senior Business Development Counselor

DBE Manager

Department of Small & Minority Business Resources

City of Austin

(512) 974-7603 (Office)

(512) 974-7601 (Fax)

edward.campos@ci.austin.tx.us

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Camille Di Maio [usmce223@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:11 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Cathedral Plaza

San Fernando Cathedral is the oldest structure in the Plaza, and nearly the oldest in San Antonio. It would be a great injustice to call the plaza anything OTHER than "Cathedral Plaza". Please choose this name in the new plans.

Camille Di Maio

78231

"Let no one come to you without leaving better or happier."

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

St. Philomena, Powerful with God, pray for us.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Bruce MacDougal [bmacdougal@saconservation.org]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 11:25 AM
To: Tom Wendorf
Cc: William Hensley; Monica Ramos (Pub works); Larry Clark
Subject: Main Plaza Presentation

Dear Tom,

We are requesting a presentation of the three Main Plaza proposals and the summary of the PPS findings at our Wednesday May 17th Board of Directors meeting. We have tentatively scheduled the presentation for 11:30am at the River House behind the Steves Homestead, 509 King William Street. If the presentation could be held to 20 minutes it will allow for questions and answers to follow. We appreciate the opportunity for our board to get a first hand view of the current concepts for the plaza's redevelopment. Thank you.

Bruce

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Brewster, Ellissa [EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:12 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

Thank you very much!

From: Main Plaza [mailto:MainPlaza@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Thu 5/18/2006 3:10 PM
To: Brewster, Ellissa
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

Yes for comment on the three plans. But we will still be taking general comments.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: Brewster, Ellissa [mailto:EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:02 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

until the close of business on Friday?

From: Main Plaza [mailto:MainPlaza@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Thu 5/18/2006 2:36 PM
To: Brewster, Ellissa
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

Yes, we will be taking commentary until the close of business on the three plans. However, that does not mean that we stop checking this email account. You can still continue to submit your comments and questions as we continue through the public input process leading up to the next public meeting on May 30th.

Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department

City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: Brewster, Ellissa [mailto:EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 11:54 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: question that needs a response please

Will you be accepting feedback on the three plaza plans through May 19 (at what time? 5 pm?) or through May 18?

Thanks for your clarification of this matter.

Ellissa Brewster
RECON Editor
Real Estate Center

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Brewster, Ellissa [EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:02 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

until the close of business on Friday?

From: Main Plaza [mailto:MainPlaza@sanantonio.gov]
Sent: Thu 5/18/2006 2:36 PM
To: Brewster, Ellissa
Subject: RE: question that needs a response please

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Monica Ramos
Acting Administrative Services Manager
Public Works Department
City of San Antonio
210-207-8026/210-207-4406 fax

From: Brewster, Ellissa [mailto:EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
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To: Main Plaza
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Ellissa Brewster
RECON Editor
Real Estate Center

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Brewster, Ellissa [EBrewster@mays.tamu.edu]
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Subject: question that needs a response please

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Thanks for your clarification of this matter.

Ellissa Brewster
RECON Editor
Real Estate Center

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Brandy [brandynamirez@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 11:48 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Opinion

I really like the changes being proposed. The downtown traffic is not as bad as people are saying. In my opinion, there are not enough places to walk and enjoy the downtown experience. I think the addition of restrooms is awesome, there are no places to go when you're walking around. There should be more throughout the downtown area as well. No business allow you to use their restrooms. I think it would make the tourist (local and out of town) more at ease being downtown and would make us visit even more. But again, I love the plans for the plaza.

Thank you!

Brandy

[Yahoo! Messenger with Voice](#). PC-to-Phone calls for ridiculously low rates.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Bogle, David F. [David.Bogle@c-b.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Monica Ramos (Pub works)
Subject: Main Plaza - Concept Plan Comment Form - 10 May Meeting Input

- The process for public input must be transparent and open, and the public's input, especially that of business stakeholders, should be documented and published by the City.
- Streets should be made part of the Plaza, but be flexible to allowing automobile and bus traffic with temporary closures being possible for "events" through use of pneumatic bollard systems. This will allow a phased approach to street closures as the pedestrian activity of the Plaza increases over time and warrants closure.
- Programming of activities and events and management of the operations of Main Plaza and nearby surrounding public spaces should be developed concurrently with the physical design of the space. Without a concerted public and private commitment to management and programming, the design should not be finalized.

The process conducted by the City of San Antonio has not publicly documented the public input, and the designs do not adequately reflect the public's input.

The design options alone, without clear inclusion of stakeholder input, do not adequately promote public and private support and investment in the area.

The lack of a management organization with the ability to draw on a combination of public and private funding sources threatens the viability of this project.

Because of the above issues I cannot support any of the plans presented, however, of the three concept plans I would prefer Conceptual design framework "A" with the revision of Main Ave and Soledad being redesigned to slow traffic, but open for normal traffic and flexible to close during events.

Thanks,
David

David Bogle
Senior Architect

San Antonio Building Programs Division
Carter & Burgess, Inc.
911 North Central Parkway Suite 425
San Antonio, Texas 78232

(phone: 210.494.0088
(fax: 210.494.4525
) mobile: 210.687.6266
* email: david.bogle@c-b.com

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contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any error or omission in the contents of this message, which arises as a result of e-mail transmission. If verification is required, please request a hard-copy version from the sender.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Blair Jones [rbjones1@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 2:55 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Options A&C

Options A &C.

Blair Jones
President
Regency Valet LLC
Blair Jones Limousine LLC
516 Lexington Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78215
Phone: 210.222.2209
Fax: 210.222.2281
Cell: 210.723.3057
www.bjlimo.com
email: rbjones1@sbcglobal.net

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Barbie Perkins [bperk11@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 10:57 AM
To: Main Plaza

I am not in favor of any plan that would close down existing lanes of traffic downtown---what a silly, self-serving plan the Mayor has proposed. It seems he is looking for a legacy that conflicts with function & common sense.

B Perkins

Barbie Perkins
210 698-8316

How low will we go? Check out Yahoo! Messenger's low [PC-to-Phone call rates](#).

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Arthur Campos [arthur@eubanks-architects.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 2:34 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza-comments

To whom it may concern

I would choose none of the options recommended in today's request forward to me by the AIA San Antonio.

I'd would recommended permanently closing Main and Soledad Streets. Keep Commerce and Dolorosa as is or consider making those streets two-way streets. This would connect the Riverwalk with the Plaza and thus have an extended Main Plaza. I am reminded of the plaza in front of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. Notre Dame is next to the Seine River. See the attached website for reference.

www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Notre_Dame_Cathedral.html

Thanks,
Arthur

Arthur Campos, Jr.

Associate

EUBANKS GROUP ARCHITECTS

790 S. Castell Ave. - New Braunfels, TX 78130
ph. 830-625-2652 fax. 830-625-2654

arthur@eubanks-architects.com
www.eubanks-architects.com

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: arodriguez@bexar.org
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 7:53 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment

Improving the plaza is a great idea. BUT, I would list it No. 8 on my list of priorities. More importantly are basic services No. 1 - 7. As we have come to know, our city budget usually runs out of money for basic services by No. 5. Perhaps we should wait until money is "saved" and we can do a better job by improving a larger plaza from IH 37 west to IH 35. AND don't forget, if you proceed with the plaza you will probably be tearing up Henry's brick streets!

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Armando De La Haya [decma@swbell.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 12:14 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Feedback on main plaza

I am of the opinion that if you are to make this a greenspace, then close both Main and Soledad entirely.

Make it a family friendly environment.

The only viable option is **Option C: Zocalo Verde**

Thank you

Armando De La Haya

DECISIONMATE Business Solutions

339 Shadwell

San Antonio, Texas 78228-3114

210 737-8821

210 735-8006 fax

decma@swbell.net

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Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: Anne Alexander [annealexander@satx.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2006 2:57 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: don't like it one bit

My husband and I live in King William and walk all over downtown. We see no reason to change Main Plaza. We adore the little park on the river which Lake Flato designed and would hate to see any changes to it. Father David's ambitions to make the cathedral the Centre of the universe is as absurd as the use of "Centre". Is he a closet Francophile? There is no easy way to drive north of Durango now with Soledad and Main open. Flores gets clogged with parked cars and Navarro is full of buses at all times; Alamo is teeming with tourists wandering in the street. \$10 million dollars could be used in about 10 thousand better ways. Main Plaza ain't broke. La Villita or Hemisfair Plaza can easily serve as the imagined Agora for no more expense than a press release declaring the new Center or Centro or even Centre.

thanx -

Anne Alexander & Jack Pancoast

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: andrew nance [andrew@agruppo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 9:51 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Main Plaza Redevelopment comments

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed plans for the Main Plaza Redevelopment.

I am in favor of "Los Jardines" as it develops the most contiguous plaza with direct, uninterrupted links to the river.

-This option provides the most formal "urban" park (think Central Park or Union Square in Manhattan) setting of the options proposed.

-This solution provides several smaller intimate settings linked by a series of axial relationships, yet still maintains a hierarchical "square" or room at the Cathedral for social functions.

-Automobile traffic is, by its very nature, anti-pedestrian. This solution diverts traffic away from the interior of the plaza which is a successful way to reinforce the perimeter of the plaza. This is a pedestrian friendly solution, and will encourage people to congregate in it's "protected" environment.

Andrew Nance AIA
a.gruppo architects
1207a Hazelton St.
San Marcos, TX 78666

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: AJ Clark [aj@clarkpave.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 9:50 AM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: Yes Vote

I like what I see so far. It would be beautiful. The east side of the River has the River walk, the Alamo etc. The West side of the river has the Market Square, San Fernando Cathedral, this would enhance our City so much. Don't let this project die. This is a must.

I don't understand how Traffic is going to work, but I am sure this is resolved or can be resolved.

A.J. Clark

President

Clark Construction of Texas Ltd.

Monica Ramos (Pub works)

From: 2architects [twoarchitects@ktc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2006 12:00 PM
To: Main Plaza
Subject: main plaza comments

Linking elements between city hall and historic courthouse buildings and main plaza should be at the same or near the same level of treatment as those that link sf cathedral and the plaza...three alternate plans all appear to emphasize sf cathedral-plaza link at the expense of the other two or three. Like alt. plan 1 & 2 link between plaza and sa river. Plans much to tiny to comment on much else. Great effort, thanks for inviting our comments. Daniel Ochoa III, AIA – Principal, 2 Architects.

2Architects